FREE

Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk October 19, 2014

East Edition No 630

BY-ELECTION »

Cameron's in town talking up his Tories

Prime Minster visits county to rally support after Reckless defection

FOOD »

High street chains leaving a bad taste?

Fears big-name competition could mean end for independent eateries

TRANSPORT »

New rail boss has commuters at heart

Southeastern chief on his plans for service improvements

TELEVISION

Apprentice inspires me

Lawyer hopes reality show success will lead to greater global things

onelife oneclub

exercise classes, luxury gym and swimming!

All included in your memberships - Short term contracts available!

Ashford 0844 248 3702 Broadstairs 0844 248 3716 Folkestone 0844 248 3754

Bannatyne's

*Terms and conditions apply.

The best garage is a safe one

Security, convenience & reliability

When it comes to remote controlled rolling garage door systems, Essati is a leader in innovation and quality.

Since 1995 Essati has been an inventive roller shutter garage door company catering for the needs of the residential market place.

In 2006 Essati introduced the insulated aluminium rolling garage door system, a sleek and beautiful modern rollerdoor of superior quality, conveniently operated by a small hand held key fob. This system combines security, convenience and reliability, with a beautiful stylish door of infinity, and it's completely maintenance free!

ESSATI

www.essatigaragedoors.co.uk

01245 396910

Remote controlled insulated aluminium rolling garage door

JUST £699 inc vat & fitting

Kent on Sunday

Sister title of KENT LIFE

www.kentnews.co.uk

More countryside to go but who really benefits?

SCARCELY a month passes, it seems, without the threat of another vast housing development chomping up a further chunk of this county's rapidly diminishing countryside.

This week, it came as little surprise to anyone when Ashford councillors decreed that 1,000 acres of farmland at Chilmington Green would serve their residents better as an "urban extension"... or almost 6,000 houses plus associated roads, shops and 'amenities'.

The eloquent, impassioned pleas of opponent after opponent of the scheme in the council chamber counted for nothing, doubtless much as they expected they would.

Why Ashford, which has expanded beyond all recognition in recent years, needs so many homes was not made clear.

In one breath, councillors talked about new houses bringing new people with new ideas to the town.

In the next, they claimed that their children and grandchildren needed places to live and would never be able to leave home otherwise.

Young people need housing they can afford – few would argue against that – but ask those same young people in Ashford if they are able to leave home and join the property ladder and the answer is likely to be that they can't without their parents' help.

The wages available to them in Ashford are too low.

A vast housing estate is not going to make them higher, nor provide them with more jobs, unless they happen to be builders.

If Ashford councillors need convincing of this point, they should look no further than their own town.

Years of seemingly endless housing development have not turned it into the boom town it was supposed to be... a stroll through its centre replete with boarded-up properties is evidence enough of that.

The battle for Chilmington Green has been lost. But it is time for elected representatives across Kent to consider if the craze for housing is giving us the county we all want.

■ Kent on Sunday and its journalists are committed to abiding by the Society of Editors Code of Practice. If you have a complaint which can't be resolved by Kent on Sunday editor Chris Britcher (chris.britcher@archant.co.uk) please contact the Independent Press Standards Organisation, c/o Halton House, 20-23 Holborn, London, EC1 2JD, or via complaints@ipso.co.uk. More information about IPSO and its regulations can be found at www.ipso.co.uk

PAGE 40 »

PAGE 50 »

PAGE 28 »

PAGE 47 »

PAGE 22 »

Contents

News

9 **Building up momentum**
Kent property market report reads positive

11 **Lord Sugar's new partner?**
Apprentice hopeful has grand plans ahead

12 **Cameron on the march**
Tory leader visits Kent to drum up support

22 **A bookful of memories**
Creators of Bagpuss and Co are celebrated

28 **Course of A2 discomfort**
Road closure causing a big rural headache

Leisure

37 **City festival is a must-see**
Organiser talks about an annual institution

40 **No return for the Jedis**
Hopes of Star Wars appearance fall short

47 **Hugh's shock**
News that forced TV chef to rethink his diet

Plus: Travel, film, what's on

PAGE 11 »

Homes and Gardens

50 **Green fingers for autumn**
Celebrity gardener offers his top tips

Sport

70 **Shakey's day of destiny**
Superbike star geared up for final showdown

Plus

Seven days ..... Pages 5-7
Hallowe'en ..... Page 42
Feedback ..... Page 48
Images of Kent .... Page 49
Driving ..... Page 55
Appointments ..... Page 59

HOW TO CONTACT US...
Publisher: Simon Irwin
Email simon.irwin@archant.co.uk
Editor: Chris Britcher
Email chris.britcher@archant.co.uk
Address: Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford TN23 1PP
Editorial: News: 01233 653475
Sport/Leisure: 01233 653479
Email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Advertising:
Jobs/Notices: 0845 671 4460
Business: 01233 653461
Email appointments@kosmedia.co.uk
Retail/Leisure/Motors: 01233 653461
Email sales@kosmedia.co.uk
Distribution: 01233 653470

FOLLOW US ONLINE @
• kentnews.co.uk
• kentnews.co.uk/mobile
• jobsforkent.co.uk
• homes24.co.uk
• drive24.co.uk
• twitter@kosmedia

Published in Kent and printed by Archant Print, division of Archant Community Media Limited (Co Reg No 19300). Registered Office: Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE

ARCHANT Inspiring Communities

UNBEATABLE

Seasonal Discount

on all Log Cabins at Johnsons

'THE BIGGER THE PACKAGE...THE BIGGER THE DISCOUNT'

4m x 3m Vancouver 45mm, Double Glazed Platinum package

was ~~£6,949~~, now..... **£5,906**

5m x 3m Denver 45mm, Double Glazed Diamond package

was ~~£8,749~~, now..... **£6,999**

20% OFF Diamond Packages

5% OFF ALL SILVER packages

(Log cabin, Delivery*, Construction onto existing level basework, Felt roof)

10% OFF IF YOU 'Go for GOLD' package

(Log cabin, Delivery*, Full Construction, Felt Shingle Roof, Structural Timber base, Preservative paint**)

15% OFF ALL PLATINUM packages

(Log cabin, Delivery*, Full Construction, Felt Shingle Roof, Structural Timber base, Preservative paint**, Roof insulation, Laminate flooring)

20% OFF ALL DIAMOND packages

(Log cabin, Delivery*, Full Construction, Felt Shingle Roof, Structural Timber base, Preservative paint**, Roof insulation, Laminate flooring, Floor insulation, Electrical package***)

All of our Packages include FULL INSTALLATION!

*Deliveries outside of a 50 mile radius may be subject to additional charges **Supply of Preservative Paint does not include application ***Electrical Packages are specific to size of cabin and may be subject to site survey or optional upgrades etc.

Johnsons Garden Buildings Est. 1960

NO CATCHES, NO HIDDEN AGENDA...

...THE MORE YOU BUY THE MORE YOU GET OFF!!!

Visit our website or call us now for a brochure

www.needextraspace.co.uk - 0845 4599444

Johnsons Nursery, Old Thanet Way, Chestfield, Kent, CT5 3JD	Polhill Garden Centre, London Road, Halstead, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN14 7AD Car Park B	Newnham Court Shopping Village, Bearstead Rd, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 5LH at rear of Notcutts	Bybrook Barn Garden Centre, Canterbury Road, Ashford, Kent, TN24 9JZ	Elm Court Garden Centre, Capstone Road, Gillingham, Kent, ME7 3JQ
01227 793717	**01959 533466**	**01622 730777**	**01233 878412**	**01634 405859**
chestfield@ needextraspace.co.uk	polhill@ needextraspace.co.uk	maidstone@ needextraspace.co.uk	ashford@ needextraspace.co.uk	gillingham@ needextraspace.co.uk

seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Thanet named worst in county for child poverty

Jamie Weir
jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

SOUTH Thanet has been named the worst constituency in Kent for child poverty, according to figures released by the campaign group End Child Poverty.

The figures show that 4,554 children whose parents are in employment are classified as living in poverty in South Thanet.

A further 1,447 children, whose parents are not in work at the moment, are also deemed to be living in poverty.

That means 31.61 per cent of children, or almost a third, in the constituency are considered to be living below the breadline.

Other parts of Kent fare better in the statistics, but many still have more than 25 per cent of children classified as living in poverty. Thanet North also fares poorly in the statistics.

The constituency has a total of 28 per cent of children considered to be living in poverty, while at the other end of the spectrum the best-performing constituency is Sevenoaks, with just 15.7 per cent of children living in low-income families.

Most of the constituencies in Kent have worse statistics than the average throughout the UK, where almost one in six children (15.9 per cent) are classified as living below the poverty line before housing costs.

After housing costs have been taken into consideration, that national average rises to one in four (25.1 per cent) who are considered to live in poverty.

The chairman of End Child Poverty, David Holmes, said: "These figures reveal just how widely and deeply child poverty reaches into our communities, even those areas generally regarded as well off.

"Far too many children whose parents are struggling to make a living are suffering as a result and missing out on the essentials of a decent childhood that all young people should be entitled to.

"We can and must do better for our children.

"Poverty ruins childhoods and reduces life chances. Failing to invest properly in children is a false economy: already child poverty costs the country £29 billion each year and in the long run taxpayers will foot an even higher bill for correcting the damage.

"We are calling on politicians of all parties to urgently set out a clear roadmap towards ending child poverty, which includes the additional actions needed and the measures by which progress will be tracked."

Theatre director vows to help restore wrecked Eric Morecambe statue

THEATRE director and life-long Eric Morecambe fan Paul Hendy has vowed to help raise the money to fix a statue of the legendary comedian vandalised over the weekend.

Mr Hendy, who along with his wife Emily Wood runs Evolution Productions from their home near Sandwich, has developed close links with the Morecambe family after taking a one-man show featuring Bob Golding on a nationwide tour.

Executive director of the production is Gary Morecambe, the late comic's son.

They were all devastated to learn the statue had been found face-down on the seafront of Morecambe, Lancashire, at the weekend.

It is believed scrap-metal thieves sawed through the leg of the bronze statue in a bid to sell it for scrap.

The statue was in the dance pose Morecambe and Wise used to end all their shows to the strains of Bring Me Sunshine.

Mr Hendy said: "It is shocking. I can't believe it, really.

"I feel it's unlikely someone has done this out of disrespect – I imagine it was for money.

"Someone may have wanted to sell it for scrap but then been unable to move it.

"If any fund-raising is needed to pay for the work to get him back up standing again, we would be happy to help in any way we can. We will need to wait to be asked by the family if financial help is needed.

"The people of Morecombe, I feel, will be very keen to get him back. He is very good for tourism – Eric was a national icon."

The statue took sculptor Graham Ibbeson six years to complete and was unveiled by the Queen in July 1999.

Eric Morecambe died from a heart attack on stage in 1984 at the peak of his fame.

A spokesman for the British Comedy Society said: "We're very distressed to hear this news.

"What an awful thing to have happened."

Dartford council leader says Tesco treatment is 'scandal'

JEREMY Kite, leader of Dartford Borough Council, has unleashed a blistering attack on retail giant Tesco.

The supermarket was meant to be a major player in the regeneration of Dartford town centre, but a proposed new store has yet to be developed at its Lowfield Street site.

Cllr Kite told a full council meeting this week that a showdown meeting with Tesco bosses last month had been "fractious".

He said: "Tesco's treatment of Dartford has been nothing short of a scandal and although they say no decision has been made to change direction on its Dartford retail scheme I get the impression that they simply don't have a clue what might happen next."

Deadline looming for school place applications, says KCC

FAMILIES of year six children who will be starting secondary school in September 2015 have just a couple of weeks left to submit their application for a place.

Details of the secondary schools in Kent and how to apply can be found in the Admission to Secondary School in Kent 2015 booklet available on the www.kent.gov.uk website.

The deadline for applications is October 31. Families can name up to four preferred schools.

Kent County Council says it is vital that parents carefully consider how their child will get to school before applying for a place.

The council's policy on home-to-school transport shows if there is help available for your child.

» Download your free **Kent News iPhone** and **iPad App** available at the Apple App Store

» Follow us on Twitter **@kosmedia** or Facebook **KOS Media**

seven days

Stories which made the headlines **@kentnews.co.uk** during the past week

Mote Park a winner in green space awards

MOTE Park has been announced as one of the nation's favourite green spaces, taking the silver prize in the Green Flag People's Choice Awards.

It beat off stiff competition from other parks around the country, beating last year's winner and moving one place higher than its 2013 result.

Maidstone council's cabinet member for leisure and culture, John Perry, said: "I am absolutely delighted that our residents and visitors have voted Mote Park as the nation's second favourite park. With such strong competition across the country, this is a fantastic achievement and testament to our volunteers and staff, who work exceptionally hard all year round to keep the park at its best. Thank you to everyone who voted."

The awards, which are organised by Keep Britain Tidy, see coveted Green Flags go to worthy parks.

Spitfire Museum given the land that will secure its future at Manston

Jamie Weir
jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

THE new owners of Manston Airport have given the land that the Spitfire Museum stands on to the Spitfire Museum Trust, ensuring its future on the site.

The museum, which attracts more than 50,000 visitors each year, had been under threat of being forced to leave the site when its lease ended in 15 years. This had prevented the trust from applying for funding vital to its survival.

However, the new owners of the former airport site, Trevor Cartner and Chris Musgrave, have now donated the land's freehold, meaning that the trust can begin to develop the museum's educational facilities and offer further experiences with its aircraft – something that attracts younger audiences.

Spitfire Museum Trust chairman Ken Wills said: "This gift of the land is exciting news.

"It's preferable to extending the lease and puts the trust in a much more secure position by owning the freehold of the building and land.

"We've been so impressed that this has all happened so quickly after they bought the site.

VOLUNTEERS: receive the deeds

"Mr Cartner and Mr Musgrave have been very understanding, particularly in light of our educational aspirations for the museum.

"Their generous gift means the museum can exist in perpetuity for the benefit of the community and visitors from around the world."

Mr Musgrave said: "We recognise the important resource that the museum provides both to the community and aviation and history enthusiasts.

"The Spitfire Museum is an integral part of the Manston site and as such we wanted to protect its heritage.

"By handing over the freehold we know that it is in the best hands for a secure future."

The purchase of the former Manston Airport site by Mr Cartner and Mr Musgrave was announced in September.

The new owners are proposing a £1 billion redevelopment of the 800-acre site over 20 years.

They say it will help to create more than 4,000 jobs.

JOHN FRANKLIN: Found guilty

Sexual assault medic is caged for eight years

A TRAINED medic who sexually assaulted three women under the guise of performing medical assessments has been jailed for eight years.

John Franklin, 39, of Kent Avenue in Sittingbourne, was convicted in February of two counts of sexual assault by penetration on a teenager in Sittingbourne.

However, the jury could not reach a verdict on four other counts relating to other victims – three of sexual assault and one of rape – so sentencing was postponed until the conclusion of a retrial in relation to those charges.

At the retrial last month, Franklin was found guilty of two counts of sexual assault and not guilty of the two other counts.

On Thursday he was jailed for eight years.

Dungeness opens door for apprentices

ENGINEERING hopefuls are being offered an insight into a possible career as the nuclear power station at Dungeness opens its doors for wannabe apprentices to find out more.

The four-year advanced nuclear apprenticeship scheme run by the station's parent company, EDF Energy, is aimed at young people who want to start a career in the nuclear industry.

Dungeness B power station, which employs 25 apprentices, is holding an information day in October half-term to give prospective applicants an insight into what to expect on the scheme.

The scheme is accredited and upon completion apprentices will receive an Advanced Modern Apprenticeship Certificate in Engineering and will have also have attained a BTEC and an NVQ Level three.

The open day is on Tuesday, October 28. Anyone interested in attending should phone the site on 01797 343436 or email dungenessbtours@edf-energy.com

Whitstable home to monstrous Crabzilla?

CONTROVERSY has raged this week over a photo showing what appears to be the world's largest crab… in Whitstable.

While some claim that the photo, which shows the creature dubbed 'Crabzilla', proves the existence of the 50ft beast, while others are more sceptical.

The picture shows the outline of a crab in the harbour, at the end of a pier, many times bigger than the surrounding fishing boats, which are dwarfed by its scale.

Because the crab is very similar, if not identical, in form to the common edible crab (which grows to a more realistic five inches in span) some have claimed the images are fake.

One graphic artist claimed that the image would be fairly easy to forge by taking an image of a crab, blowing it up and overlaying it on the aerial shot of the coastline.

The image was originally posted on a local website called Weird Whistable.

Shopping centre gets £60,000 makeover

THE Centre in Margate is set to have a makeover totaling £60,000 of improvement works.

The Centre was sold in March 2014 after the previous owner fell into administration. The new owner is keen to make The Centre lighter, more open and more a part of the high street.

Thanet District Council is working with the owner to identify suitable tenants as the landlord's current goal is to restore The Centre to full occupancy.

The scheduled work will mean vacant units will be refurbished and upgraded so that new tenants can occupy them straight away.

Thanet council's David Green said: "The Centre is a core part of the shopping offer in Margate and I am delighted that this level of investment is being spent on improvements.

"Not only will the enhancements improve the shopping experience in Margate but bringing derelict shops back into use will create opportunities for local businesses."

» Download your free **Kent News iPhone** and **iPad App** available at the Apple App Store

» Follow us on Twitter **@kosmedia** or Facebook **KOS Media**

agenda

What will make next week's headlines...

Tories prepare to pick by-election candidate

THE Conservative Party is to choose its candidate for the Rochester and Strood by-election on Thursday evening.

Candidates Kelly Tolhurst and Anna Firth, who discussed their ideas for the constituency at a public meeting on Wednesday, are being chosen through a postal ballot of all its eligible voters.

The count will take place in the evening, although no details have been confirmed.

More high-profile politicians are also expected in the county next week as the campaign hots up.

The parties are all remaining tight-lipped as to who is coming, but Prime Minister David Cameron, who visited this week, reportedly

plans to descend on the constituency four more times between now and the election on November 20.

Cabinet members are expected to do the same, with some backbench MPs making three visits each.

Downton actress to star in domestic abuse play

DOWNTON Abbey actress Raquel Cassidy will star in a hard-hitting play about domestic violence on Tuesday in Tonbridge.

Hurried Steps, a collection of stories from all over the world, will be performed at the Angel Centre at 12.30pm and 7.30pm and has free entry.

There will be a panel discussion with experts on domestic abuse following the show. The afternoon performance will finish in time for the school run.

Nicolette Kay, artistic director of show producer New Shoes Theatre, based in Tunbridge Wells, said: "We want to bring the issue of domestic abuse into the open."

...also

Architecture exhibition

AN exhibition in Gravesham exploring the changes in the borough through the eyes of its people opens today (Sunday).

Memories of Gravesham runs at the Woodville Theatre in Gravesend until November 2 from 10am to 8pm daily, except on Sundays when it shuts at 2pm.

Kent devolution debate

SHOULD Kent have more power? That's the question county councillors will debate at a full council meeting on Thursday.

Members will discuss a motion saying: "Kent County Council calls upon central government to devolve more powers and money to local government."

Apple fair is tasty treat

FRUIT-lovers can taste hundreds of types of apple this weekend at two apple fairs.

Head to Brogdale Farm, near Faversham, or Perry Court Farm, in Wye, near Ashford, this Saturday and Sunday. Entry is £2 at Perry Court and £8 for adults or £4 for children at Brogdale.

Swan Lake production

THE Russian State Ballet and Opera House will be performing Swan Lake in Charter Hall, Chatham, next Sunday (October 26).

The performance will start at 7.30pm. Tickets are £24, or £22 for concessions, from www.ballet-tickets.com.

Chess JAB ANSTOETZ Jim Dickens Luxaflex window styling markilux Sanderson SilentGliss

GREAT OFFERS THIS SEASON

Soft Furnishing – It's a window wonderland at Lenleys Soft Furnishing department. Whatever your windows, come and be inspired to make them a wonderful feature of your home.

LENLEYS

Roper Road, Canterbury CT2 7EL 01227 766655 www.lenleys.co.uk

FURNITURE | BEDS | CURTAINS | FLOORING | ACCESSORIES

AUTUMN FURNITURE & BED EVENT

Ixworth

3seat sofa

Usually £1495
Event price £1095
Save £400

Many fabric colours to choose from

GPlan Mattisse

Table 4 chairs and 2 carvers, cherry finish

Usually £3499
Event price £2599
Save £900

QUALITY FURNITURE AT COMPETITIVE PRICES

Nasons at home

Nasons Furniture & Bed Centre

Maynard Road, Wincheap, Canterbury CT1 3RQ

01227 463550 | www.nasons.co.uk

HAPPY DAYS: KCC's Paul Carter, second right, with some of the county's economic leaders during the release of this year's Kent Property Market Report

We are emerging from recession is the message from property report

The mood among business leaders in the county is positive that the gloomy days of economic downturn are finally coming to their end, writes **Maria Chiorando**

THE county is emerging from the spectre of recession and is at the forefront of growth... the message was loud and clear at the launch of this year's Kent Property Market report.

Described as the annual guide to investment and development in the county, the report details property deals, regeneration projects and initiatives supporting economic development.

Other areas in the spotlight are business parks, rural property, residential sector performance, inward investment and tourism.

The launch, on Wednesday at the Eastgate building in Northfleet, brought together industry figures from such sectors as banking and construction and those at the forefront of local politics, including county council leader Paul Carter, who was a speaker at the event.

The 23rd annual report, carried out for the second time by Caxtons Chatered Surveyors, presented a largely positive message, saying much of the positive message was down to "economic growth in high-value sectors and the availability of financial support packages".

Infrastructure developments were highlighted as particularly significant in Kent's journey to economic recovery, including the announcement of a garden city at Ebbsfleet, the Government's commitment to a third Thames crossing and high-speed rail services.

Along with Cllr Carter, speakers included Paul Wookey, chief executive of Locate in Kent, an agency that assists companies relocating to the county and is funded by the county council, Medway Council, local councils and the Kent Developers Group.

Also on the bill were Michael Cassidy, chairman designate of the Ebbsfleet Valley Urban Development Corporation; Ron Roser, chairman of Caxtons; and Mark Dance, county council cabinet member for economic development.

Cllr Dance welcomed the positive mood of the report.

He said: "It shows we have real strengths in sectors likely to continue to grow, such as life sciences, low-carbon and environmental goods and services, advanced manufacturing, the land-based economy and the creative and digital industries.

"Supporting this, the £60 million available in financial support programmes to back businesses with the potential for innovation and growth has made a real difference to the task of attracting investment in the county."

Taking to the lecturn, Cllr Carter said he was pleased by the results in the report.

He said: "The report is what you would expect as you come out of a recession. Some statistics go the wrong way, but there is an air of optimism – there are some phenomenal successes, like Discovery Park, and now the owners of Discovery Park are substantive owners of the Manston Airport site, which is very exciting."

He was also mindful of the challenges facing the county in the years to come.

"The population of Kent is set to increase by 1 per cent each year. This is an exceptional challenge and we need to think about how we are going to make sure we plan the necessary increase in infrastructure," he said.

"An announcement on a third Thames crossing is essential. Most of our roads and transport infrastructure is already working at capacity and we need to ensure that this wonderful place to live does not become a congested gridlock."

Another talking point was Paramount London's proposal for a theme park at Ebbsfleet.

Michael Cassidy, of the Ebbsfleet Development Corporation, said: "At first I was a sceptic, but now, having learnt more about the plans, I am a fan.

> **"The report is what you would expect as you come out of a recession. Some statistics go the wrong way, but there is an air of optimism"**
>
> **Paul Carter,** leader of Kent County Council

"I think the team behind it should get support – there have been questions about viability and financial support, but I believe there is a serious team there."

He also spoke about high-speed rail, addressing the question that so many of the county's commuters find important.

He said: "In terms of the fare issue, I think that the pricing structure is not fit for purpose – it's a deterrent. I can't attack the regulated price, but I can attack the element of subsidy."

Residential property performance was, as ever, an important element of the report, which compared local performance with national, saying that "the residential market in Kent continues apace along with the rest of the country, with average house prices rising 5.4 per cent year on year to June 2014 below the UK national average of 11.7 per cent to the same date."

The report also noted that there "has been a reduction of 20 per cent in the number of completions from 2011/2012. This is possibly due to the lack of available sites.

"The Government is looking at ways to stimulate the development of housing to increase the volume of properties on the market and to curb house-price inflation."

Lack of available sites does not appear to be an issue in the future, though. As well as the 15,000 homes planned for Ebbsfleet, another large development, at Chilmington Green, Ashford, was approved this week. The Discovery Park developers are also planning to build 500 houses on the site.

The rural market performed strongly, according to the report, with equipped (including farm buildings and associated infrastructure) arable land prices reaching a record high, in accordance with the national situation.

For the first time, national prices broke the £10,000-per-acre barrier, with equipped land in Kent growing marginally to £9,500 per acre.

Ron Roser, chairman of Caxtons, the main sponsor and contributor to the report, said he was delighted and impressed with the outcome of this year's research.

He said: "On the back of the return to growth in the UK property sector, Kent, along with the rest of the South East, is benefiting.

"New local and central government initiatives have helped to bolster activity, especially with inward investment into the county.

"Approved developments at Ebbsfleet and Swanscombe will ensure sustained sector employment in the area for some time to come and show a massive improvement on the position we were facing 12 months ago.

"Confidence has returned across the county, whether in the commercial or residential field.

"This year's report shows that Kent's property sector is gaining traction in a strong economy and is determined to maximise opportunities.

"A welcome return from the darker days of recession."

PORT LYMPNE RESERVE

GET YOUR PASSPORT

THE ONE DAY TICKET THAT LASTS ALL YEAR...

...and visit us this October half term for FREE kids activities and prize* giveaways!

The Passport is amazing value at ONLY £23.95 for Adults and £19.95 for Children** for a whole year! We're one of the cheapest days out in Kent.

* Terms and conditions apply, please see website for full details.
** Concession rates available.

October 25th - 2nd November 2014

aspinallfoundation.org
0844 842 4647
NR. ASHFORD, KENT, SAT NAV CT21 4LR

Search 'Port Lympne'
@portlympnepark
KentAnimalPark

Apprentice win would be Felipe's first step to changing the world

Jamie Weir speaks to the county's only representative in new series of the BBC show about his motivation in business

Pictures: BBC

Picture: SHUTTERBLISS PHOTOGRAPHY

FAMILY GUY: Felipe Alviar-Baquero with his Jennie, left, and fighting to stay in this year's series of The Apprentice

BEFORE the middle of this week, the name Felipe Alviar-Baquero was likely to have drawn blank stares from most of us.

However, with this week's return of BBC1 reality contest The Apprentice, the name Felipe will potentially become a household name across the country as the Kings Hill resident goes head to head with 19 other contestants for the opportunity to work with Lord Alan Sugar.

And he put himself straight in the hot seat by choosing to be project manager for the very first show.

In a move that arguably backfired, his team lost the challenge and Mr Alviar-Baquero faced eviction.

Happily, however, he escaped the firing finger of Lord Sugar.

Although you might have got the impression that, like so many Apprentice candidates, he is arrogant, often talking about himself in the third person, Mr Alviar-Baquero is far more complex, with a deep love of both family and, perhaps more unexpectedly for a focused businessman, social justice.

Mr Alviar-Baquero has been sworn to secrecy in relation to the programme itself, but he spoke to KoS, explaining why he had always wanted to be in commerce and how life had led him down that road.

He said: "I always wanted to be an entrepreneur when I was younger.

"As soon as I could, I started selling things and building up my business knowledge. But everything I did in an entrepreneurial way had to have a social impact attached. It wasn't just good enough making money, I wanted to change lives and make the world a better place for people."

That sentiment is one Mr Alviar-Baquero has carried through life as he began two businesses that focus on social change and action to benefit those around him.

He has been involved in a number of charities and is a trustee at the charity Children Of The Andes, a group that works to better the lives of vulnerable children in his home country of Colombia.

As a Colombian, he is well known, once being voted one of the country's most influential people. He has also made an impact in the UK – he was chosen as a torch-bearer during the 2012 London Olympics – with his charity work at the forefront of much of what he does.

He was 18 when he left South America, coming to the UK because he wanted to learn English – his mother Patricia is British – and experience schooling in this country.

But despite his initial enthusiasm he didn't last long at his first school when he arrived.

He said: "I dropped out after just two months of being there when I first came to the UK because I felt it was better to take a different path.

"For me, it was never easy coming to the UK as a Colombian.

"And I thought it was better to leave because academia on its own isn't enough. School gives you tools, but if you have a passion for something you just have to go and do it."

Despite this, Mr Alviar-Baquero ended up completing a degree in law and business administration at the University of Kent before furthering his academic education with a Bachelor of Civil Law at Oxford University – one of his life-long dreams.

He said: "I completed one of my dreams, which was to go to Oxford University. When I was little I only saw it on the TV and it was the place to go."

As a lawyer, the 33-year-old Mr Aliviar-Baquero has enjoyed success, starting his career working for international law firm Slaughter and May.

Mr Alviar-Baquero explained why he chose to go into law, saying: "I always wanted to have a big impact on society, make things better, and I thought that the best way to do this was working in business, law and politics.

"These are the big things, where a person can really change things and make life better for others."

It was this desire to make the world a better place that led him down the road of entrepreneurship and was the reason he decided to compete in The Apprentice.

He said: "I always thought of the programme as great because it motivates and encourages young people to have that entrepreneurial spirit.

"It is one of the few programmes which gives a real sense of business and which can cultivate an interest in going out there and doing it. For me, the programme is inspirational."

This drive towards business is one of Mr Alviar-Baquero's greatest passions, but one thing always takes greater priority for him.

He said: "My family is everything to me, it is the biggest part of my life. And they say that behind every man is a greater woman – and that's the case here. My wife Jennie is amazing and has proven a rock for me."

> **"It is one of the few programmes which gives a real sense of business and which can cultivate an interest in going out there and doing it"**
>
> **Felipe Alviar-Baquero,** on his reason for joining The Apprentice

Mr Alviar-Baquero says his family have been the inspiration for what he calls his greatest business achievement so far – a children's play area called Tiny Town in Larkfield.

He said: "My two daughters [seven-year-old Isabella and Sophia, four] were the inspiration behind that business. I love to spend time with them as it really helps me connect with them and I thought it would be a great idea to create something which enables that. Jennie is an occupational therapist, so she was also able to help me make sure Tiny Town was good for children with disabilities. That gives everyone a place to play and a space for children and their parents ."

There would seem to be little doubt his previous business exploits have helped people live a better life.

Equally, his charity work helps mark him as an atypical candidate on The Apprentice. Maybe a candidate not quite ruthless enough for the cut and thrust of Lord Sugar's boardroom?

Either way, a win for Mr Alviar-Baquero would show that the business world can still be place where individuals with a conscience, as well as the brains and the acumen, can make their mark.

That would be one way for him perhaps to change the environment of commerce... and make it just that little bit better.

TALKING POLITICS: Prime Minister David Cameron addressed constituents from Rochester and Strood in an effort to drum up support after former Tory MP Mark Reckless defected to Ukip

Vote for Ukip would risk return to instability, claims Cameron

Maria Chiorando attends Tory leader's visit to Rochester and Strood ahead of forthcoming by-election

AS PRIME Minister David Cameron started the first of a series of visits to the Rochester and Strood constituency, it seemed there was definitely a touch of the purple panic following Mark Reckless's defection to Ukip.

Mr Cameron was in town on Thursday to showcase the two Conservative candidates, one of whom will be chosen to represent the party following this Thursday's postal vote.

The successful candidate will then stand against Mr Reckless in the by-election on Thursday, November 20.

The Tory leader visited the Wainscott Memorial Hall to talk at a residents' meeting and give people a chance to grill the prospective candidates.

He told the crowd: "The reason we are here today is because the MP who was voted in for Rochester and Strood has chosen to change sides.

"He has let people down, but we need to look to the future and do everything we can to make sure Rochester and Strood have the best candidate for the by-election.

"I really want to give you the very best choice."

Describing Mr Reckless's defection as "baffling", he went on to highlight the importance of voting for a new Conservative candidate.

He said: "All of you are going to have a say in which one of these Conservatives is the candidate – you get to make that choice.

"I am not standing here saying we have solved all of the problems in the UK, or even all of the problems in Rochester, but we do have a good long-term economic plan.

"I am very keen that the person you send to Parliament will back that long-term economic plan – and it will be your choice in the by-election who you send to Westminster.

"It will be better if you send someone who can be part of the team."

Inevitably the question of immigration came up, with Mr Cameron asked for reassurance that ethnic minority groups would not become an "easy target".

Mr Cameron said: "Ethnic minority groups are part of the rich fabric that makes up our country. They make a very valuable contribution.

"I think we need to be clear about that, and at the same time be clear that the immigration system has not been working properly.

"I often get people from Britain's ethnic minority communities who say they are frustrated, as someone who came to build a life here, who came here fairly, that the immigration system isn't reformed.

"We've made sure that people who can come here and make a contribution do so, but we've also, for example, closed down 700 bogus education colleges that were set up as visa factories to allow people to come who didn't really have a right to be here.

"We've dealt with some of the issues, but there's more that we need to do."

Talking to journalists after the meeting, he addressed the issue of Ukip, denying allegations that he had underestimated the party. He claimed that a vote for anyone other than the Conservatives would "risk a return to the instability, the insecurity, the economic failure of the past".

He said: "In the forthcoming by-election, if you vote Ukip you are really just giving Nigel Farage the chance for a long gloat in the pub – and another mark forward to Ed Miliband being installed in 10 Downing Street.

"Whereas if you vote Conservative you are going to have a chance of one of two extremely able candidates who will stand up and fight for this area."

Following Mr Reckless's defection, a number of angry Conservatives have very publicly insulted the new Ukip recruit.

Mr Cameron commented on how he thought this may have affected voters.

He told KoS: "I understand that some people would feel very let down.

"You have to remember that there are lots of people who work to elect a Conservative Member of Parliament, who would have knocked on a lot of doors, trodden on a lot of pavements, delivered a lot of leaflets, who felt that they were part of a Conservative-led government.

"They feel very let down when the Member of Parliament, for no apparent clear reason, decides to change horses.

"The absolutely key thing he cared about – a referendum for Europe – is actually guaranteed by the Conservative Party and only by the Conservative Party.

"I understand people's upset and how cross people can be about this, but now we need to look to the future."

Continuing the Ukip theme, Mr Cameron vowed that there would be no deals or pacts with Mr Farage's party.

"We are a Conservative party, we stand everywhere in the country, we aim to win the next election outright and we believe that it is possible.

"We're demonstrating, particularly with economic and other changes we've made, that we can give this country a more stable and secure future. So no pacts, no deals, we're fighting outright."

■ **Turn to page 14 for more of the latest by-election coverage.**

SO WHO'S IN THE RUNNING TO REPLACE MARK RECKLESS?

AS part of Mr Cameron's visit, the prospective Conservative candidates also attended the meeting.

Medway councillor Kelly Tolhurst and Sevenoaks councillor Anna Firth briefly introduced themselves before taking questions from the crowd.

Mrs Firth said: ''The first thing I want to say is that I am delighted that the Prime Minister has come down here today.

''I got involved in politics because I wanted to stand up and make a difference to my community.

''That's why I'm a councillor, that's why I'm a governor.''

Her main concerns were health care, as Medway Maritime Hospital is in special measures, primary-school places, and ''standing up for our countryside and green open spaces''.

Ms Tolhurst was keen to emphasise her connection to the area.

She said: ''I am your local candidate. I understand the local people because I am one of you.

''I represent you as a councillor. I wanted to get involved to play a part in making decisions affecting my friends and family.''

Ms Tolhurst said she ''cared deeply'' about hospitals, saying that Medway had ''saved her life'' last year.

Schools and development were also on her agenda.

She said: ''I want developments in Rochester and Strood to be the right kind of developments with the infrastructure in place.''

Established 1981
SupaGlazing Limited

Over 55,000 customers!

Introducing the...
Supa Diamond
A rated, **ANY** size, **ANY** number of openers, White UPVC

DOUBLE GLAZED
4 WINDOWS **£1,512.00** inc VAT
5 WINDOWS **£1,890.00** inc VAT
6 WINDOWS **£2,268.00** inc VAT
7 WINDOWS **£2,646.00** inc VAT

TRIPLE GLAZED
4 WINDOWS **£1,891.00** inc VAT
5 WINDOWS **£2,364.00** inc VAT
6 WINDOWS **£2,836.00** inc VAT
7 WINDOWS **£3,309.00** inc VAT

All inclusive of fitting, survey, guarantee & includes Pilkington Energikare saving glass. Did you know triple glazing only saves an extra 0.5% on average which is about £3 per year.

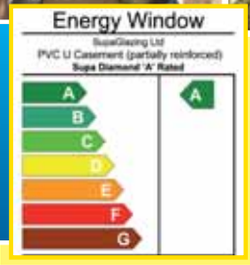
The choice is yours!

A Rated Windows
Pilkington **Optiwhite**™ (outer pane)
Argon gas filling with warm edge spacer
Pilkington **K Glass**™ **OW** (inner pane)
A Rated Windows

Our Sale Now On!
...Kent's leading double glazing manufacturer

15% OFF ALL Conservatories & Orangeries

Celebrating over 33 years of beautiful windows... Guaranteed
Finance available subject to status, written quotations available on request.



Don't just glaze it, Supaglaze it!
All of our installers are CRB checked.

Hurry! Offers end 4th November

Knight Road, Strood (opposite Morrisons)
01634 294 696 Open 6 days a week Monday - Saturday 9am - 5pm
2 Roman Square, Sittingbourne **01795 422 877**
13 Lowfield Street, Dartford **01322 290 525**

AS HEARD ON heart 103.1 102.8 MasterCard VISA FENSA REGISTERED COMPANY
Profile: BS7950 BS7413 Door Lock: BS3621 Toughened Glass: BSEN12150-1
Factory awarded British Safety Council Safety Award: Every Year Since 1984
Head office and factories at Deacon Trading Centre, Knight Road, Strood.
www.supaglazing.com
International Safety Awards 2011 WINNER PAGS BRITISH SAFETY COUNCIL
56415

ACCIDENT CLAIM?

We can help with your claim for:

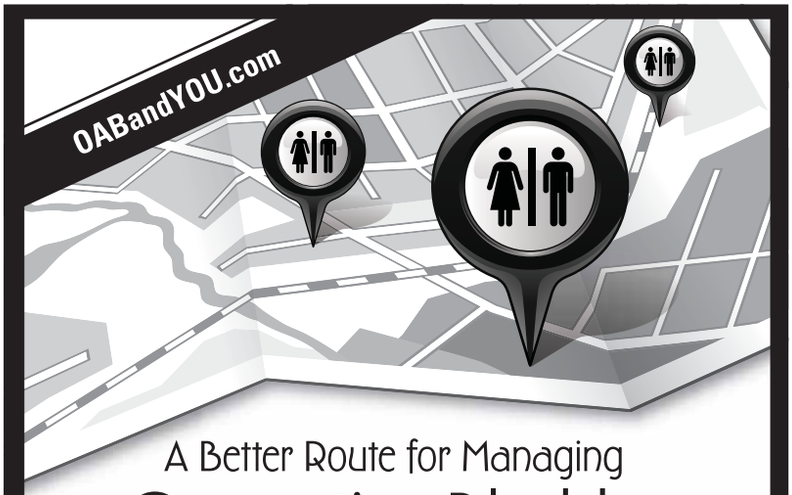
- Head/brain injuries (Headway Approved Solicitors 2014)
- Accidents at work
- Car and motorbike accidents
- Fatal accidents
- Trips and slips
- Medical negligence

Call GIRLINGS PERSONAL INJURY SOLICITORS on
0845 2221 999
for a FREE, no obligation chat about your claim

MEMBER OF
The Law Society
apil

www.girlingspersonalinjury.co.uk

KENT no win no fee specialists



A Better Route for Managing
Overactive Bladder
Should Have Fewer Toilet Stops

If the symptoms of overactive bladder (OAB) – such as the frequent and sudden urge to urinate, followed by leakage – are interrupting your day, the **SYNERGY** study may be an option. It is a clinical research study evaluating an investigational combination of two drugs prescribed for OAB to see if, when taken together, they provide more relief than when taken on their own.

There is no cost to you to participate.

To learn more and to see if you may qualify, please contact:

www.oabandyou.com and select this hospital:
Medway Hospital, Windmill Rd,
Gillingham ME7 5NY

synergy

20140204-UK-ENG-PA-PAD

Voters love us more than the Tories, says the MP who left them behind

Ukip candidate Mark Reckless told **Sarah Linney** that Conservative Party members had promised him their secret support in the Rochester and Strood by-election scheduled for November 20

UKIP launched their Rochester and Strood by-election campaign at the weekend claiming that dozens of card-carrying Conservative Party members are set to desert their party at the ballot box.

Mark Reckless, the Tory MP who resigned the seat last month and caused the by-election, told KoS that his former party colleagues had promised him their support in droves.

"Dozens of Tory members have said they are going to be voting for me secretly in the ballot box," he said. "A lot of them voted Tory in 2010 because they believed what the Tories said in their manifesto: that they'd cut immigration and deal with the deficit. But those promises haven't been kept. That's why I moved."

The Ukip triumvirate of party leader Nigel Farage, Mr Reckless and new MP Douglas Carswell launched the campaign outside the party's new campaign office in Rochester High Street last Saturday.

Though there was not quite the media scrum that had surrounded Mr Carswell following his victory in Clacton two days before, dozens of people packed the High Street, including former MP Bob Spink – who crossed the floor to join Ukip in 2008 but was never elected under the party banner – as well as activists from across Kent and Sussex.

Mr Farage told the excited crowds: "So much of how people vote is about perception. The Liberal Democrats had this for decades – people were not going to vote for them because they couldn't win. That's been our problem. The perception has been that it is difficult for us to win elections under the first-past-the-post system.

"Clacton has blown that out of the water. People voted Ukip and they got Ukip. We will be targeting everyone in this campaign."

Mr Reckless has been accused of betraying the party by his former colleagues and, most notably, reportedly called a "fat arse" by Prime Minister David Cameron.

But he said he would "not be responding in kind" and would be fighting a "positive campaign based on local issues" – such as his opposition to the development of protected countryside at Lodge Hill.

"I believe I have a fighting chance," he said.

"I am getting a fantastic reception on the doorstep, a lot better than I ever got as a Conservative. I'll be delivering leaflets and people will rush out of their houses asking for a poster.

"There's a sense of belief that I've not seen in politics for 20 years."

Mr Carswell – who re-won his seat in Clacton with a 12,000 majority after leaving the Tories to join Ukip in August – described Mr Reckless to KoS as an "exceptional man".

"He is a decent, honourable, patriotic, diligent candidate," Mr Carswell said.

"I would quite often knock on his door before a late-night vote, long after other MPs had stopped working, and find him responding to everyone who had got in touch with him.

"He tried to make a habit of responding to letters on the day he got them. There are very few MPs who do that. Most MPs I know have an army of staff who respond, but he would respond to everything personally."

Mr Carswell was so intent on running a clean election campaign that he banned his team from saying anything negative about the other candidates even among themselves – and warned one press officer, whom he had overheard doing so, that he would be asked to leave the team if he did it again.

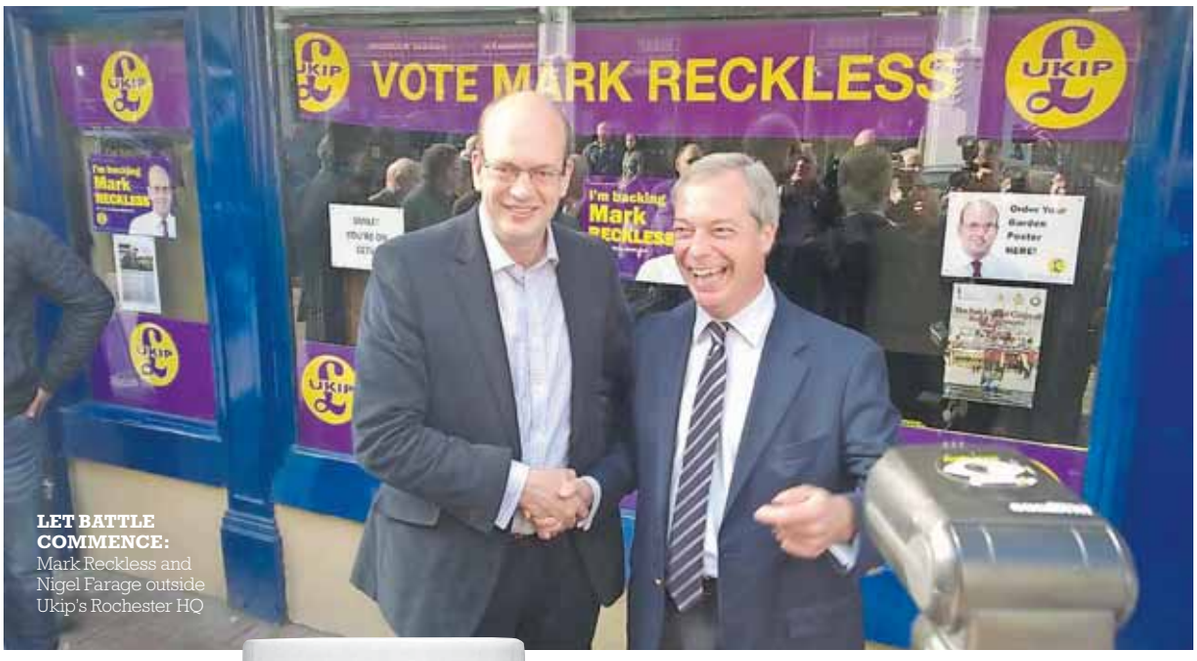
He said Mr Reckless should be praised for calling a by-election, rather than being labelled a traitor.

"He didn't have to call this election and I don't think anyone can really dispute what an honourable thing it is for him to have done.

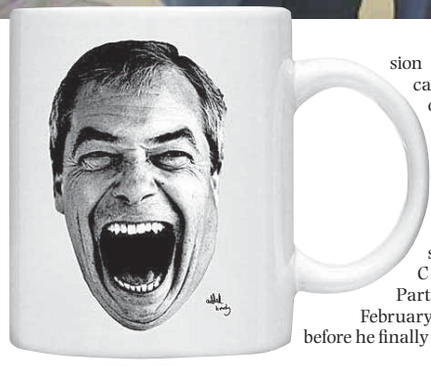
"The devious thing to do would have been to

> **"I k e courage to say 'I am going to quit a safe seat and subject myself to high scrutiny'. It's a very diffcult to decision to take – you can't accuse him of taking the easy option."**

Douglas Carswell, new Ukip MP on Mark Reckless's decision to force a by-election



LET BATTLE COMMENCE: Mark Reckless and Nigel Farage outside Ukip's Rochester HQ



carry on pretending David Cameron is the answer to this country's problems when he is not. Whatever personal abuse the party machine levels at him, they can't take away the fact that he has given local people the final choice.

"It takes extraordinary courage and guts to say 'I am going to quit a safe seat and subject myself to high scrutiny'. It's a very difficult decision to take – you can't accuse him of taking the easy option."

And Mr Carswell should know. He started reconsidering his position in the Conservative Party as far back as February – six months before he finally left to join Ukip.

"I started to have sleepless nights and serious concerns," he said.

"Zac Goldsmith had brought forward a proposal for recall, and disgracefully the whips' office sabotaged it. And I thought 'Do these guys really share my values?'.

"I could have sat in the House of Commons and thought the Government has failed to deliver on its promises and muddled along trying not to think too much.

"But a thought became an idea, then a proposal, then a concrete conviction."

His disillusionment extended not just to the Tory party but to Westminster politicians as a whole. The values of people in Westminster are not the same as the values elsewhere," said Mr Carswell.

"These people believe that when you have a problem in a country, you make a speech. I would sit in the Commons and I would hear party leaders come in and talk about what speech they needed to give. It was never about what actions they needed to take. Talk is all they do and some of them will say whatever it takes to keep office.

"For years in this country it has been a two-party system, but the two parties are different in the manner of Tweedledee and Tweedledum.

"They prop each other up out of fear – they tell their voters 'Vote for us or the other one will get in'. Now the potential for real change is there."

He said he would not be surprised if more defections followed.

"I don't think we should assume that this will be the only by-election.

"There are many MPs who are so disappointed that they are announcing they are not going to be standing again in 2015. I suspect some of them will be thinking maybe they should have done what Mark did and I hope our example encourages more people.

"They don't get it in Westminster. This is not what they think it is. It is people from all backgrounds who have said 'Enough!'. There is something unpredictable happening, a spirit of change, and I don't quite know how it ends."

He said he had found sympathy for his decision to leave among party colleagues.

"Before I made the announcement, I discussed my decision with a number of Tory MPs.

"The fact that it didn't leak shows that they are good friends. Most said they didn't think I should do it but that they respected my decision and wanted to remain friends.

"Two members of the Cabinet have texted me since I was re-elected and said they are there for me if I ever need help with anything."

PAGE 16 »

CANTERBURY cathedral

VOICE TRIALS

FOR BOYS AGED 7 & 8
8 NOVEMBER 2014

Substantial scholarships are awarded and choristers benefit from an all-round excellent education at St Edmund's School Canterbury.

The Master of Choristers, David Flood, is always pleased to meet and advise parents and their sons.

For further details please telephone

01227 865242

davidf@canterbury-cathedral.org

@No1Cathedral

We all need some...

my time avante care & support

✓ My time to meet friends
✓ My time to have a coffee and relax
✓ My time to have a day out
✓ My time short term respite care

Whether you are juggling a busy family life, hectic social calendar or maybe looking to book a holiday, 'My Time' short term respite care is there to support your loved one, so you both can enjoy a little 'My Time'.

'My Time', offers people, caring for loved ones with dementia, a respite break. Whether it's a 2 hour break, a full day or overnight stay, we can help.

For more information or to book 'My Time' online you can visit our website at **www.avantemytime.org.uk** or call **0800 9750900**

Amherst Court
Palmerston Road, Chatham

Bridge Haven
Conyngham Lane, Bridge

Barnetts
Frant Road, Tunbridge Wells

LABOUR TROOPS GIVE MILIBAND THEIR SUPPORT

WE'RE ALL BACKING ED: Kent Labour politicians, from left: Gordon Cowan, Vince Maple and Tristan Osborne

KENT'S Labour politicians have thrown their weight behind party leader Ed Miliband despite growing concern over his ability to win the general election.

The Opposition leader came under attack from one of his own MPs this week following Labour's near-defeat by Ukip in the Heywood and Middleton by-election.

Graham Stringer, MP for the Greater Manchester constituency of Blackley and Broughton, told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: "If you go on the doorstep, Ed isn't an asset to us. They [voters] think he doesn't understand the problems they are suffering. You can't hope to win elections if you don't talk about what the people are talking about.

"I think the team around him is hopeless. They give him very bad advice and collectively they don't have the breadth of experience that Ed needs. People have to believe what we say – presently, they don't."

But Gordon Cowan, Labour leader on Kent County Council, said criticisms of Mr Miliband were "absolute nonsense".

"He has done a marvellous job," Cllr Cowan told Kent on Sunday.

"Lots of people on the doorstep have said he's a strong leader. I have met him a few times and he can draw crowds around him and is very open to letting people fire questions at him and answering them in a true manner.

"Our membership is going up nationally by thousands. In my branch last week we got three new members, and we didn't have new members coming in from about 2010 to 2013.

"And of course we are focusing on the right issues – what could be more important than the NHS?"

He admitted he was not confident that Labour would win an overall majority and that their lead in the polls was smaller than he would like but said he felt this was not related to Miliband's leadership.

"The electorate are disillusioned with all politicians. The trust really started to be taken out of politics in the expenses scandal and they think they [politicians] are all the same, which is sad," Cllr Cowan said.

"To try to get that back I think we have to be totally honest with people. I don't tell people I will change the world – I say I will work as hard as possible to try to achieve the goals you want me to achieve.

"Heywood and Middleton was disappointing, but I think there is sometimes complacency. My ward is a staunch Labour ward, but so often the voters don't come out because they think we are going to get in anyway.

"I believe we will be the largest party at the election and I dearly hope we could get overall control, but I am being realistic – the next government is likely to be a coalition again, although who we would go into coalition with I couldn't say."

Medway Labour leader Vince Maple's endorsement of his leader was similarly glowing.

"I think he will be the next Prime Minister," said Cllr Maple.

"The policies that he's put forward – on the cost of living, zero-hours contracts and the NHS – resonate with people.

"I have seen Ed in action and he has the ability to not just listen but to hear, and act on that, and make sure party policy is in line with what people are saying.

"I am proud to have voted for Ed in the leadership election and I would do so again in a heartbeat."

He said he felt Miliband had been given "a hard time" from certain sections of the media.

"He has been given excess scrutiny over small issues," Cllr Maple said.

"How people eat their sandwiches is not overly important when it comes to how in touch they are. If people come and look at me eating Greggs, they are not going to get a good look – anyone having something to eat is not going to make a good photo opportunity.

"If you want the photocall, he is not your man. But I think people want more from their political leaders than a soundbite on the TV or hugging huskies."

But, again, he was not confident of an overall majority for Labour in the general election.

"History shows us that when Labour have been voted out, they don't win the next election," Cllr Maple said.

"But I am confident that we are doing everything we can and I think we will do very well across the country. Our percentage of the vote in Heywood and Middleton went up 1 per cent, whereas the Tory and Lib Dem votes both dropped by double percentage figures."

One Kent politician who has not been Miliband's biggest fan in the past is Chatham and Aylesford prospective parliamentary candidate Tristan Osborne.

In May, just before the European elections, the Daily Mail reported him as being taped saying that the party was running a "dodgy campaign" with "no coherent messaging".

"I'm fearful. The machine is not functioning in any capacity," Mr Osborne was reported as saying.

"We need to be appealing to the aspirational southern voter, and the current strategy doesn't... indicate that we are winning over that type of support."

However, Mr Osborne told Kent on Sunday that he had been "quoted out of context" and had since changed his mind about Mr Milband.

"I did say those things, but I didn't give permission for that to be produced and it was during the European election campaign," he said.

"Ed is a good leader and I am certain we will win the election with an overall majority with him as leader. The right-wing vote is totally split – the Tories are running scared of Ukip. They didn't have a majority in 2010, so where are they going to find the vote to get a majority now?"

GIRLINGS'
MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE HELPDESK
Call GIRLINGS' MEDICAL NEGLIGENCE HELPDESK on
0845 2221 999
For a **FREE**, no obligation chat about your claim for negligent medical treatment

The Law Society
apil
Girlings
PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS SOLICITORS
www.girlingspersonalinjury.co.uk
KENT no win no fee specialists

Great offers on oak flooring

3 strip engineered at £12.99 per square metre + VAT

21mm x 189mm engineered oiled oak at £34 per square metre +VAT

WINGHAM TIMBER & MOULDINGS LTD

01227 720537 www.winghamtimber.com

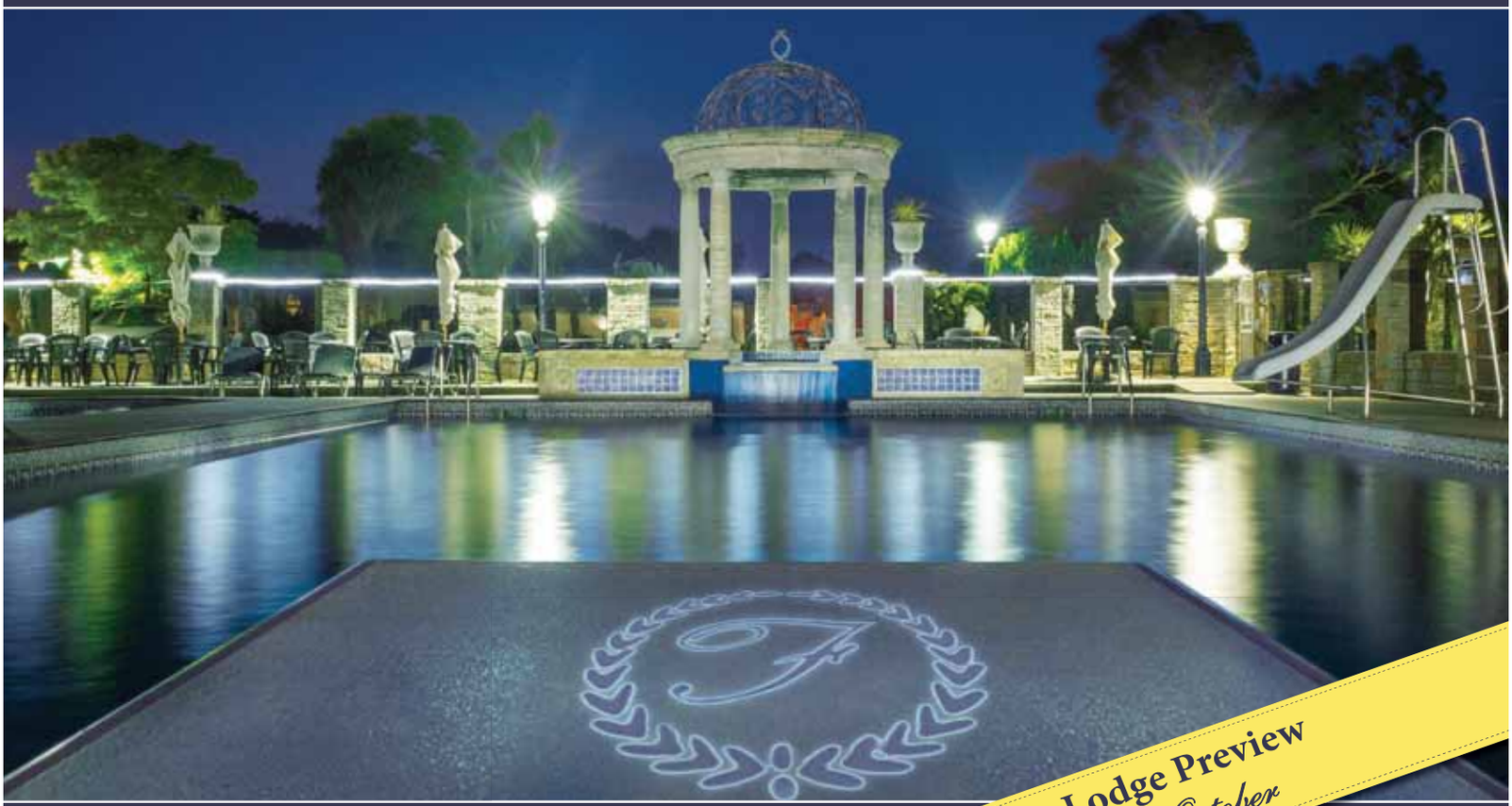
WINGHAM INDUSTRIAL ESTATE, GOODNESTONE ROAD,
WINGHAM, CANTERBURY, KENT, CT3 1AR

Opening Hours: Mon-Fri: 8–5, Sat: 8.30–12.30

Visit our shop for:

SAWN TIMBER
PLANED TIMBER
HARDWOOD
TREATED TIMBER
SHEET MATERIALS
FENCE PANELS
FENCING GATES
SLEEPERS
QUALITY DECKING
TIMBER MOULDINGS
PAINTS & STAINS
IRONMONGERY
NAILS & FIXINGS
TOOLS
ELECTRICAL
INSULATION
SEALANTS & ADHESIVES
CEMENT & AGGREGATES

Lodge Ownership at The "Fabulous" Foxhunter Park



Exclusive Lodge Preview
25th & 26th October

Probably The Worlds Best Holiday Park

This year sees the arrival of a prestigious development of the UK's Finest lodges at this multi award winning Holiday park in the heart of Kent. The Foxhunter Park has long been thought of as the UK's leading holiday park, with its easy access from London it is plain to see why the holiday homes on this stunning park have been in such high demand.

A beautiful development of 43 lodges set in landscaped grounds.

- Luxurious Lodges from £110,000
- A selection of market leading lodges
- Over 1000sq ft of spacious accommodation
- Private decks and individual parking

The park for everyone set in the heart of the Garden of Eden.

- Bar & Restaurant
- Regular entertainments programme
- Large separate play areas and games room for children
- Stunning outdoor swimming pool
- Caravan holiday homes from £29,000

Contact us on: 01843 821311
www.thefoxhunterpark.co.uk

The Foxhunter Park

We would love to tell you more about our exclusive Holiday Park,
Contact us on: 01843 821311
E-Mail reception@thefoxhunterpark.co.uk
The Foxhunter Park, Monkton, Nr Ramsgate, Kent. CT12 4JG

Pictures: FIONA WELLBY

PLANNING OUR JOURNEYS: New Southeastern managing director David Statham foresees a better experience ahead for Kent's legions of rail travellers over the next four years of its franchise

Right kind of trains on the line, promises Southeastern

David Statham, the new man leading Kent's rail company, spoke to regular user **Sarah Linney** about his plans to woo his passengers with improvements to services and rolling stock as well as offers to tempt more leisure travellers

AS SOUTHEASTERN embarks on the latest chapter of its time in control of the majority of the county's rail services, its new managing director has embarked on a charm offensive with its weary passengers.

The opening salvo will be a slew of special offers set to roll out over the coming weeks.

But it may be too little too late after a recent survey of travellers found a continuing trend of dissatisfaction.

And the majority of the gripes, unsurprisingly, centred on the ever-increasing cost of tickets.

On the first day of the firm's new four-year contract to run services – a decision deemed controversial after it was not put out to tender and set amid a background of commuter dissatisfaction – its new managing director, David Statham, insisted the firm would not be resting on its laurels and it would start by revamping its leisure travel offering.

"There will be a much greater range of fares from January," said Mr Statham, the 46-year-old who came to Southeastern from First Capital Connect, which itself was replaced by the Thameslink, Southern and Great Northern 'super franchise' earlier this year.

He said there would be more super off-peak fares and internet-only fares with discounts.

"For example, you will be able to get a day return from Margate to London for £22.40 instead of £33.70.

"We will also be offering 25 per cent off off-peak fares in the run-up to Christmas."

There's also the long-discussed idea of extending the popular Oyster card system as far into Kent as Dartford and Swanley.

But the reality is that it will probably take a lot more to persuade often long-suffering commuters. Figures released on Monday in a survey commissioned by BBC Radio Kent, as part of a day-long series of special reports on the radio station, make for grim reading.

Fewer than a third of its customers think it is good value for money.

Among its biggest users that drops to just over a fifth. And most of them would rather it disappeared from their lives altogether.

To some extent, it is part of life as a passenger on trains that you complain about them.

They're late, they're expensive, they're dirty, they're full of other people... those grievances have been around since long before the days when Southeastern was in charge.

But why, when commuters are paying thousands of pounds a year for the privilege of travelling, is it seemingly so hard for Kent's train operator to provide a service that those who use it are satisfied with?

The report found 30 per cent of passengers thought the company provided good value for money – a figure that dropped to 27 per cent among commuters and 22 per cent among season-ticket-holders.

Just 45 per cent wanted the company to run services in the county over the next four years.

Surprisingly perhaps in light of the above, 70 per cent said they were satisfied with the operator – although the figure fell to 64 per cent among commuters and 60 per cent among season-ticket-holders. The annual hike in ticket prices is dictated by the Government, continuing a policy that sees users of the rail network pay a bigger slice of the cost of running it rather than the taxpayer.

But the deals Southeastern has unveiled are unlikely to benefit the London-bound commuters who pay the most for its services – thousands of pounds a year in most cases.

Those who benefit from the popular high-speed service typically pay a premium of about 30 per cent for the privilege.

Mr Statham justified the extra expense by the money invested in the service: "There was a huge amount of investment put into the high-speed services, into specialist signalling equipment, for example, and the money has been used to fund the service.

"The assumption was that the prices on the high-speed would be greater than on the rest of the network – it is very reliable, with a really good standard of on-board service."

He justified the huge differential

PAGE 18 »

« PAGE 19

between off-peak and peak services by saying that it reflected the available capacity at different times.

For example, a day return to London St Pancras from Ashford on the high-speed line costs £32.50 off-peak and £63.60 during peak times.

"We want to make sure people have the choice to travel on a cheaper service. People like choice and they like to be able to fix their journeys to suit them.

"There has been lots of research done, and the research tells us people want choice," he insisted.

"They want to be able to pick and choose fares and they want a simple ticketing system.

"And we can't offer extremely low fares as we have a limited amount of capacity – there isn't unlimited capacity to carry those people."

As anyone who has ever taken a train on the Continent will know, European countries seem to manage it. But Mr Statham said Britain would need to fund its railways differently if there was to be a drop to Continental levels of pricing.

"It's about whether it's the taxpayer or the passenger paying. In lots of European countries the railways are funded by the taxpayer," Mr Statham explained.

"Whereas this is the first year in Britain that the passenger is funding more of the cost of the railways than the taxpayer.

"Submitting our bid to renew the franchise was a very intensive process and it took us more than a year to come to a deal.

"We are taking less of a subsidy under this deal than the previous one – the amount of money we take from taxpayers is very marginal.

"There is a cap on our profits – it's about 3 per cent – so there will be no super-profits.

"We are not going to be able to make limitless amounts of money. If we go above that the Government will take a greater and greater percentage of our funds."

> **"There is a cap on our profits – it's about 3 per cent – so there will be no super-profits. We are not going to be able to make limitless amounts of money."**
>
> **David Statham,**
> Southeastern's new MD on profits

But he refused to blame lack of Government funding for the high prices.

"I am not going to point the finger at the Government," Mr Statham said.

"We sell you your ticket. It is up to us to provide a service that's value for money. We see the reaction from passengers and we realise there's a lot of work to do in making sure we regain people's trust and push the levels of satisfaction back up again.

"Last year we had our highest-ever levels of customer satisfaction, at 84 per cent, and that has dropped."

One factor unlikely to increase passenger satisfaction is the impending disruption at London Bridge.

A three-year revamp of the station will see no Charing Cross trains stop there for 18 months from January.

After that, no Cannon Street trains will stop there for a further18 months, which will undoubtedly cause difficulties for commuters used to getting off at the station.

But, as Mr Statham pointed out, the work is necessary as the station has become far too small for the number of passengers and trains travelling through it, leading to congestion and delays as trains cross each other's paths and block each other's way.

Southeastern also promises to open services travelling from Kent directly through London, cutting down on transfers from major terminal to major terminal across the capital.

Mr Statham added: "A thousand trains a day go through London Bridge. Platform Six is the busiest railway platform in Europe.

"The station needs to be able to cope with a lot more passengers. There is not enough space for trains, not enough platforms, and it restricts the services we can offer.

"The revamp is one of the biggest railway construction projects since the Second World War and will allow it to cope with 50 per cent more passengers.

"It will deliver a brilliant concourse – as big as Wembley."

Mr Statham says Southeastern is trying its hardest to minimise the disruption to passengers.

"There are real challenges and we have been talking to passengers about this for at least a year.

"But lots of people in Kent, almost uniquely across the rail network, have a choice of London terminals.

"We are taking on 170 extra staff for 10 weeks when the timetables change, both times, and we are also extending the opening hours of Cannon Street and employing 29 extra staff there."

And he says Southeastern, which carries some 300,000 passengers (around 570,000 journeys) a day – a 33 per cent increase since 2006 – has much to be proud of.

"The high-speed line was a great thing for Kent," Mr Statham said.

"What's important for me over the next few years is that we focus on what's important to passengers: better punctuality, better information, a better environment."

Purchase direct from the very best artists and craftmakers in the UK

Contemporary
Craft & Design Fair

Our largest ever event at Sevenoaks

Sevenoaks School
SEVENOAKS
24-26 October
12 - 5pm Fri • 10am - 5pm Sat & Sun
AA Signposted from A225 • TN13 1HU
Admission £3.50 • Accompanied under 14's free

CRAFT IN FOCUS

Follow Craft In Focus on Twitter & Facebook

www.craftinfocus.com T: 01622 747325

EAR-TO-EAR WITH COMMUTERS

ON Monday, just before speaking to KoS, David Statham, who replaced Charles Horton as Southeastern managing director, took part in a live mid-morning BBC Radio Kent round-table discussion with a number of commuters at Charing Cross.

They painted a frustrating picture of weekly delays, lack of information, dirty, soapless toilets and skyscraping prices.

"Soon I will need a mortgage to pay for my fare," one commuter from Rainham, who gave his name as John, told the programme.

"I think the fares are out of control and I don't think there should be any rise at all this year given the performance we have had over the last 18 months.

"There is an assumption that we can fleece the commuters."

He said that when trains from Victoria were disrupted one night he had asked if he could use the high-speed line instead and initially been told no – despite paying more than £5,000 a year for a season ticket.

"When I did get on the high-speed, it broke down outside Stratford," he said.

"There are signal failures between Medway and London every week. I have to give myself an extra hour to get to work. The high-speed service from Medway is not packed – you could let people get on these trains and get to work.

"Quite often when there are major delays, some of us end up issuing more information, and more accurate information, than you do, which is frustrating."

Mr Statham said the company had invested £8 million in train equipment and was investing £500,000 in cleaning in the next few months, as well as improving the toilets on 190 trains.

"Seventy per cent of delays are caused by infrastructure and we are working very hard with Network Rail to address those problems – they are investing £145 million in upgrading the network."

Network Rail is responsible for tracks and signals – the basic rail infrastructure, Southeastern for operating the rail service.

"We are also adding 2,000 extra seats in evening peak times by lengthening trains, plus 1,000 extra seats on the high-speed at peak times.

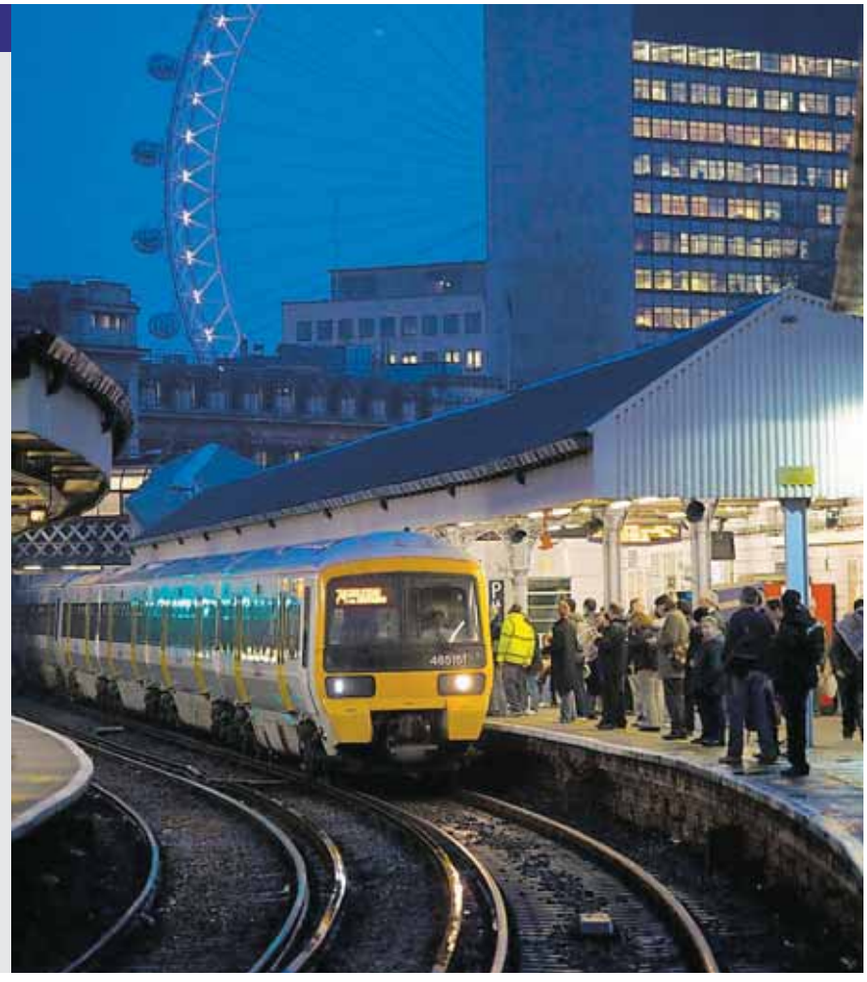
"We are investing in more information screens and are bringing more people into the Twitter team, as well as about 100 more frontline staff over the next three and a half years.

"We are committed to being more transparent and we will be publishing our performance by route and our performance targets in our customer magazine this week."

All very nice. But will this actually make a real difference to the experience, and the pocket, of passengers forced to fork out for a service they consider sub-standard?

The Government has told train companies they cannot raise peak-time fares by more than the rate of inflation this year, but there is no such ruling on off-peak fares.

However, Mr Statham said the company would be stepping up its efforts to attract leisure travellers with a range of special offers.

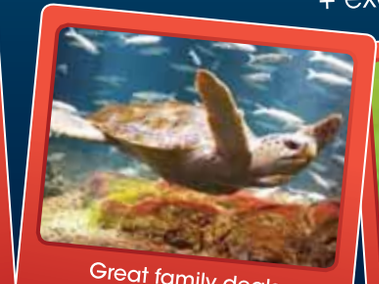


DAY TRIP
Special offer!
Call 0844 335 1647 now!

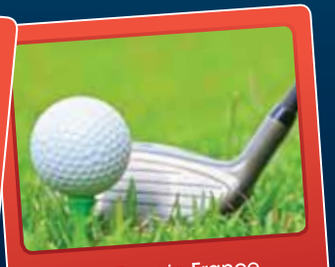
Only £20 per car, each way*

+ exclusive partner offers

Scrumptious restaurant offers
Gourmet meal in a castle or in a charming seaside town? Enjoy French cuisine at the best price.



Great family deals
Sea World attraction, War Museum, Planetarium... a day out at amazing prices!



Tee Time in France
Enjoy a day out for a round of golf with friends.

Visit www.eurotunnel.com/deals for more great offers!

*Limited period offer. Available for travel on any Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday from11 November to 11 December only. Subject to availabilty. Advanced booking required.

EURO TUNNEL le shuttle

drive through europe

Magical memories of a saggy old

ON SET: Peter Firmin and his daughter Emily outside her fabulous shop

Peter Firmin and Oliver Postgate's characters were a special part of growing up for many of us. Oliver's son Daniel spoke to **Chris Murphy** about a new book celebrating their work.

FOR many, the images will immediately remind them of warm childhood memories – classic characters brought to life by a partnership that delighted a generation.

Now the artistic talents of Peter Firmin and Oliver Postgate are being portrayed for the first time in a coffee-table book.

The pair created some of the most memorable children's characters, among them Bagpuss, the Clangers, Ivor the Engine and the Pogles.

Included in the glossy pages are fresh shots of some of the other lesser-known creations for their own production company, Smallfilms.

Much of the magic was created at the pair's studios in Blean, near Canterbury. Mr Postgate died in 2008, but his son Daniel is delighted with the resulting book.

Published by Four Corners Books, the Art Of Smallfilms shows the evolution of the myriad of puppets the pair dreamt up and made.

Daniel Postgate, who lives in Whitstable, said: "They are such endearing characters, all of them, and that is why they are still so popular today."

He said: "This is something Peter Firmin and the publishers organised.

"It is all about his imagery and puppets. It's a great book and gives a quality to Peter's work which he deserves. It is an art book looking at his creations in an artistic way, as artefacts as opposed to characters in a TV programme.

"It casts a fresh eye over Peter's drawings and puppets."

In an age before computers were widely used to create effects, the duo, working from their Blean barn, produced some of television's most delightful icons that have survived in memories for decades.

Mr Postgate, who is still working on a new Clangers series to be broadcast early next year, said: "They look great. It is a great book for people interested in all aspects of Smallfilms and Peter's work, and it's not too expensive – it's a good solid big book."

Some of the pictures used are from Mr Firmin's personal collection and some new images, re-imagined using the original puppets.

"We got all the puppets together and did a load of new-age photos of them – it was great revisiting them, live photographing them.

"Some of them look a bit worn – they have been around the block, so they have a certain bashed-about look, which is quite nice really. They have got a bit older, just like everybody else."

He says some of the shots do show the amount of work that went into producing the puppets – like Bagpuss's paws, for instance. One shot from below clearly shows the intricacy of the stitching needed.

Other show the characters from the rear, so it becomes a little clearer how they were operated.

Mr Postgate said: "This means you step back from them as characters and look at them in a new way, in an abstract way, really.

"There is a shot of Madeleine the rag-doll showing the back of her, where you can see the workings. It's an intriguing look behind the curtain to see how things were made, the armatures used and the skeletons of the Clangers."

He said: "I think what people like about their work is the integrity of the characters. You get the feeling that if the camera was off they would carry on with their lives.

"I am delighted there is now a coffee-table book with Peter's and my dad's work in it."

The Art of Smallfilms, from Four Corner Books, is priced at £25.

Share in Success

HIGHWORTH GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Learn why learning is fun and why Highworth is OUTSTANDING at our Open Evening!

Thursday 23 October 2014 | 6.00pm - 8.00pm

Website: www.highworth.kent.sch.uk

Presentation by Headteacher Paul Danielsen 6.15pm and 7.00pm

The school is also open to visitors on Friday 24 October 9.00am- 10.30am

Address: Quantock Drive, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8UD

cloth cat and his stellar chums

WONDERFUL WORLD: From top clockwise: a background for Ivor the Engine, Mrs Pogle and frog, Granny Clanger and a Clanger skeleton, all in the new book The Art Of Smallfilms

Halloween at
WAGGON at HALE
BAR & RESTAURANT
Friday 31st October
Childrens Trick or Treat hunt 8pm
BBQ
FREE SPARKLES (ADULT SUPERVISION REQUIRED)
Free Spooky Cocktail for those in fancy dress
FREE FACE PAINTING
Live Music from Brothers Grim from 8.30pm
179 Capstone Road, Chatham ME5 7PP
01634 400800
www.waggonathale.com

Halloween Ghoulmet Banquet at
Anchor & Hope
Country Pub & Restaurant
30th October
The Terror Starts at 8pm
6 Course Halloween themed meal with matching wine or cocktail
"Witches Brew"
(Pea & bacon soup served with a Kir Royale
"Goblins with Pumpkin Dip"
Toasted tortilla goblins, dip into homemade pumpkin dip and bite their heads off!!! Served with a glass of blood orange Sangria
"Stack of Bones"
Marinated chilli ribs served with the Merlot infused blood of the victim
"Worms of Brains"
Spaghetti bolognaise served in a sweet red pepper with a glass of Spanish Rose
"Beef Stew with Ghoulish Mash"
Served with a glass of blood red Zinfandell
"Chocolate Spider"
Enjoy this creepy crawly with a shot of green gas...
£29.99
booking required with a £5 deposit...
Book your place today at the bar...
Fancy dress preferred...
South Ash Road, Ash, Kent TN15 7ER
01474 872382 - www.anchorandhope-ash.com
Like us on facebook/anchorandhope2014

Pictures: HIGHWAYS AGENCY

THE WAY AHEAD: An overview of what drivers at Dartford will be seeing

Revealed… the future look of the Thames crossing

With its toll-booths removed, the appearance of the Dartford bridge and tunnel complex will, before long, be very different

TIMES are changing at the Dartford Crossing and now we have an idea of how the link between Kent and Essex will look after the introduction of Dart Charge.

This is the new system that should help traffic flow more easily.

Toll-booths will be removed and replaced by a remote payment system in which drivers will be able to pay online, by phone, by post or at one of thousands of Payzone outlets nationwide, either in advance of their journey or by midnight on the day after it.

Cameras will be installed to ensure the toll is paid. If you don't pay for your crossing by midnight the day after your journey, you will be issued with a penalty-charge notice.

This is £70 but reduced to £35 if you pay within 14 days. If the penalty charge is not paid within 28 days, it will increase to £105.

There are enforcement arrangements in place across Europe, so the charge can be effectively implemented both in the UK and abroad.

The 27-lane payment plaza will be replaced by four open lanes in each direction.

Work to remove the booths will coincide with Dart Charge going live in late November and is expected to be finished next spring.

Dart Charge project director Nigel Gray said: "It's only when the booths have been removed that the full benefits of Dart Charge will be felt and we will get under way on this work at the same time that the new payment arrangements begin.

"It's complicated work, especially on the northbound carriageway, where we need to protect the tunnels – one of which was built in the 1960s and has a lower height restriction – from over-height vehicles.

"We'll be completely redesigning the approach to the tunnels to detect and turn around these vehicles and other vehicles not suitable for the tunnels, using a system of signals, barriers and extra lanes, while keeping all other traffic flowing as much as possible."

SMOOTH OPERATOR: Toll-booths will be removed to allow traffic to move more freely

Oak & Pine Autumn sale

Now On!

HUNDREDS OF BARGAINS WITH SOME AS LOW AS 1/2 PRICE

Newbury Pine Bedroom Range
e.g Triple Wardrobe ~~£899.80~~
NOW £699.80

Dorset Oak Standard TV ~~£189.80~~ £149.80 20% OFF

Deauville Oak 4dr Sideboard ~~£789.80~~ £599 £190 OFF

Pine 4drw Chest ~~£219.80~~ £179.80 20% OFF

Dorset Oak 2drw Coffee Table ~~£259.80~~ £199.80 OVER 20% OFF

Wessex Oak Hall Bench ~~£249.80~~ £199.80 20% OFF

Eton (Truffle) 2 over 3 Chest ~~£449.80~~ £359.80 20% OFF

90cm x 90cm Table & 4 Chair Set (Brown Chairs) ~~£399~~ £199 1/2 PRICE

Whitstable Oak 4 over 1 Chest ~~£369.80~~ £299.80 20% OFF

3 Floors of OAK & PINE Furniture ALL REDUCED

Cotswold Pine 2 Over 2 Chest ~~£199.80~~ £159.80 20% OFF

Oak Nest of Tables ~~£279.50~~ £139.75 1/2 PRICE

Moreno Oak Tall Chest ~~£629.90~~ £539.90 15% OFF

Sussex Oak Small Bedside ~~£99.80~~ £69.00 30% OFF

Sussex Oak Single Computer Desk ~~£559.50~~ £279.75 1/2 PRICE

Sussex Oak Filing Cabinet ~~£399.50~~ £199.75 1/2 PRICE

Sussex Oak A/H Wardrobe ~~£529.80~~ £399 £120 OFF

20% OFF

Oak Cubes From: ~~£129.80~~ £99.80

Oxford Oak 2 + 3 Chest ~~£299.90~~ £259.90 15% OFF

Sussex Oak 3dr/3drw Sideboard ~~£479.80~~ £379.80 £100 OFF

Oak 'Laptop' Desk ~~£279.50~~ £139.75 1/2 PRICE

Dorset Oak 2drw Table ~~£179.80~~ £139.80 20% OFF

Oxbow Oak
1.8 Ext Table ~~£1045.00~~
15% Off £895.00

OUR PRICE GUARANTEE

We will not be beaten on price
Please visit our website for details

Whilst stocks last

PINE & THINGS Furnishers

Wincheap Road (junc. with A2, Retail Park) Canterbury, Kent CT1 3TY

FREE PARKING

www.pineandthings.co.uk Tel: 01227 470283 ESTABLISHED 35 YEARS. OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK

Do high streets still have a place for the independent restaurant?

PAVEMENT CULTURE: Boho restaurant in Canterbury helps fly the flag for the independents

The number and variety of our eateries is greater than ever, but there is a fear that chain operators could be dominating the high street scene to the detriment of independents, writes **Jamie Weir**

FOOD, food, glorious food. Never has our love affair with eating out been greater, and never has there been such a range of restaurants of different types from which to choose. Good news for all, you might have thought, but not everyone sees it that way.

A growing number of independent restaurateurs say that, in a situation akin to the proliferation of supermarkets, too many eateries will make the dining-out market unsustainable, at least for lone operators.

Further, there is the ever-present threat from chain restaurants.

The economic health of a town doesn't seem to have a bearing on whether an independent restaurant is more likely to survive or not.

In affluent Sevenoaks, for example, the Ginseng Chinese restaurant was the second independent eatery to shut up shop in the town in recent weeks.

Reportedly, competition from chain establishments in the town had brought about the demise of Ginseng.

The fear, of course, is that high streets packed with local versions of ubiquitous brand outlets ultimately look very much the same.

Jan Wyatt, owner of Broadstairs independent restaurant Wyatt and Jones, told KoS that chain eateries do some things well but boil cooking down to its simplest form.

He said: "I came from the chain-restaurant business, so I understand what they do well and what they don't do well.

"Chains basically buy everything in massive bulk and are in many cases nothing more than a chef heating up pre-cooked things.

"They simplify systems so that anyone can do it and that cuts costs because there is no need for a talented chef.

"They don't train chefs up like independents do, and that ends up meaning that many coming through our food businesses just lack creative flair."

And, according to Mr Wyatt, that can lead to bigger issues in the towns and cities they are coming to dominate.

He said: "Every high street ends up looking the same. They are pushing out individuality and just taking over, which is such a shame.

"They're also failing to support the local economy. Many of the jobs they provide are zero-hours, minimum-wage jobs where there's a high turnover as people leave quickly. There is no personality to these places."

Kristian Gill, owner of Boho in Canterbury, told KoS that independent restaurants can help support local producers because they appreciate the value of community.

He said: "I'm surrounded by these big chain restaurants. The worst thing is that I see some of them just getting deliveries of white boxes from white trucks. None of the stuff they use seems to be locally sourced.

"I spend time going to local producers and making sure that I get the best produce from local growers to give my customers the freshest food.

"It's good because it also supports the local economy, keeps the growers and producers in business, puts money into the local economy and creates jobs here in Kent. The chains aren't doing that in the same way."

CONCERNS: Kristian Gill fears that visitors to Canterbury will form the wrong impression

This can also impact on the wider town, according to Mr Gill, who says that chain restaurants start to take away the character of our towns and cities.

"Canterbury, in particular, for such a small city, is rammed with these chain restaurants. It's such a shame as it's a historic place and somewhere that gets a great deal of tourist business.

"People who come here just see loads of chain restaurants, which is part of the view of the city they'll take back home with them, and that's a problem for me. If that's all they think our county's food scene is about, it's such a shame."

The issue of conformity goes deeper than you might think.

Many of those chain restaurants you see taking so much of our high-street space are being absorbed by bigger groups in the search for larger scale.

Zizzi, Ask Italian and Pizza Express are all familiar restaurant chains, but what is less widely known is that they are now part of one large group – Gondola Holdings.

> **"It's very much like coffee shops have done in the past. They are able to swoop in, open loads of identikit restaurants and dominate the scene until others are unable to compete financially."**
>
> **Jan Wyatt,** owner of Wyatt & Jones, on the power of the chain operations

The Denture Clinic
"Smile with Confidence"
• Express Denture Repair, Reline and addition Service.
• New Cosmetic Dentures with Jaw Line Improvement
• All Work Produced on Premises, Excellent Aftercare
• GDC Registered Clinical Dental Technicians
Call today for a FREE initial consultation
31 Roper Close, Canterbury, 01227 764241
110 High Street, Broadstairs, 01843 600789
www.dentureclinicincanterbury.co.uk
www.dentureclinicinbroadstairs.co.uk

Zen Car Factors
• End of life vehicles purchased
• All grades of iron & steel purchased
Richborough Road, Sandwich, Kent CT13 9JE
01304 617733 (Non-ferrous department)

JOHN BUTCHER BROS
Unit 11-12 Canterbury Industrial Park, Island Road, Hersden, Canterbury, Kent CT3 4HQ 01227 713850
• Uniform prices paid at both depots •
Bright Wire £3,550 per tonne
New Production Brass Cuttings £2,700 per tonne
Clean Aluminium Wheels £860 per tonne
Household Cable £1,200 per tonne
Lead £1,000 per tonne
Copper water cylinders £49 each
Prices applicable until Tuesday 21st October 2014
All other non-ferrous metals purchased with immediate payment

ROOM FOR ALL? Canterbury draws in tourists from across the world, many of whom eat out in the city. Whether smaller concerns can survive alongside chain restaurants remains to be seen.

This kind of scale allows the bigger conglomerates to leverage their size, buying in huge bulk from suppliers and enabling them to negotiate lower prices.

We contacted Gondola Holdings, but its spokesman chose not to speak to us.

Similarly, The Restaurant Association, which is part of the British Hospitality Association and the national trade group for the restaurant, hotel and catering industry, preferred not to comment.

Back at Wyatt & Jones in Broadstairs, meanwhile, Mr Wyatt, pictured right, was less than complimentary about what he says are the business practices of the large restaurant organisations.

He said: "These groups are able to price people out of the market by paying above the odds for prime spots to squeeze out the little guys.

"It's very much like coffee shops and also supermarkets have done in the recent past. They are able to swoop in, open loads of identikit restaurants and dominate the scene until others are unable to compete financially.

"I have worked for large restaurant chains and I believe that they don't have any concern for the community. They don't care about towns because for them it is all about the shareholders and how much money they can get through the doors."

But while some smaller, independent, restaurants are having a tough time fighting the chains, an industry expert who chose not to be named told KoS that the big groups were enjoying big success.

He said: "The amount of money people have in their pockets has impacted on restaurants, but that just means that customers are being a bit more savvy in how they choose to spend it.

"People are choosing chains because there are any number of different offers available, with good, consistent food being served.

"That is a big factor when people decide to go for a meal. They want value as well as quality and the chains are able to provide a level of both.

"If you take a look at the big groups, then you can see that their figures look good and they are performing extremely well right now.

"Demographic studies also show that there is still further room for growth in the casual dining sector when compared with other similar economies.

"If people didn't want to go to chain restaurants, they wouldn't.

"The fact is, the public want that competition and are voting with their feet."

FABULOUS INTERIORS START HERE...

...for quality stoves, fires, fireplaces and beams with a service you won't find elsewhere

Your home visit, measure and discussions are done by the same people installing it, giving you peace of mind

GSF Grate Stoves & Fires

HETAS

Unit 13, CT3 Business Park, Cooting Road, Aylesham, Canterbury CT3 3EP

T: 01304 849191 | www.gratestovesandfires.co.uk

A2 roadworks have turned our lanes into rat-runs, say locals

…but Highways Agency claims consultation meant the best options were chosen, reports **Jamie Weir**

CARNAGE on the roads. We can only hope that such a drastic forecast will not come to pass, but the emotive language highlights the frustrations of motorists and residents alike as they try to deal with the closure of the A2, one of the county's most important trunk roads.

People living in villages around Canterbury say they have been plagued by drivers using country lanes as rat-runs, while drivers say signage is poor and that they have been forced to take a detour almost 40 miles out of their way.

The road has been shut to allow sections along a six-mile stretch between the Brenley Corner roundabout and Wincheap to be rebuilt.

A stretch of coastbound road has been closed every weekend, with nine weekend closures predicted by the Highways Agency, which is running the project.

Traffic heading for Dover is being directed along the Thanet Way (A299), on to the A253 and then past Sandwich and Whitfield on the A256 to the port. Drivers wanting to get into Canterbury will need to make their decisions as to which route they take.

Tim Smith works in Boughton-under-Blean, one of the villages to have felt the force of the road closure. He told KoS the situation was dire.

"The road closure has had a serious impact in the area. There have been a number of problems, with a lot of the roads getting totally clogged up during the busier parts of the day.

"But the really dangerous thing is people trying to find a way around the road closure and following their sat navs around the country roads.

"There are a lot of cars on the country lanes and it's obvious when they don't know where they're going.

"They'll speed up, slow down and come to a stop as their drivers consult the map or sat nav and that's dangerous for other road-users in the area, especially when the volume of traffic is so much higher."

That is a sentiment echoed by John Gilbey, leader of Canterbury City Council. He highlighted the problem of following sat navs at Denstroude Lane, near Dunkirk.

He said: "I've had reports that Denstroude Lane, which is a small country lane, was totally gridlocked last weekend. It was chock-full of HGVs following their sat navs and then, as a result, getting stuck.

"It's a small country lane, which makes it totally inappropriate for large vehicles to be trailing down, and it ends up being quite unsafe."

And Cllr Gilbey, who represents Blean on the city council, says that his ward has been inundated with traffic as vehicles drive through the area.

He said: "The signage has been absolutely abysmal in the area. There are signs on the M25 which are utterly useless for drivers who end up at Brenley Corner roundabout with little knowledge that the road ahead is closed off to them.

"That leads to cars and lorries deciding to try and come through Canterbury, which has left my ward in Blean absolutely gridlocked.

"It has also meant that Canterbury has ended up with severe tailbacks on the ring road which stretch all the way up to Blean."

According to Cllr Gilbey, that has had other knock-on effects on the city, causing problems for retailers in the run-up to the Christmas shopping season.

He said: "It has caused problems for retailers who have suffered as a result of lost trade because no one can get into the city to do their shopping.

"The retailers have, in turn, come to the council to ask what we are doing about the issue.

"We've ended up speaking to the university and signposting a bus service where shoppers can park there and then catch the bus down.

"But it has not been easy for us and shops have lost business as a result of the poor job the Highways Agency has done with its signage."

Tara Birks, the landlady at The White Horse Inn in Boughton-under-Blean, is similarly unimpressed, saying that the A2 closure is not only killing trade but causing other problems in the area.

"I just don't understand why the Highways Agency is making life so difficult for locals in the area," she said. "We aren't getting the passing trade which we have normally do and hotel bookings have dropped considerably.

"For people who don't have cars in the area, it is an absolute nightmare as public transport isn't coming through the village to get them to Canterbury.

"For the people who live locally and know the back roads it isn't so bad, but for those who are just trying to pass through, or get to the village, there are all number of issues.

"It is made worse due to the fact that the Highways Agency just don't seem to care about the problems being caused – I've spent hours on the phone to them.

"And to make matters worse, this is going on in the run-up to Christmas, during the pub's busiest period."

Cllr Gilbey also took aim at the manner in which the Highways Agency had decided the diversions and signage.

> **"For people who live locally and know the back roads it isn't so bad, but for those just trying to pass through there are all number of issues"**
>
> **Tara Birks,** of The White Horse Inn in Boughton-under-Blean

JAM-PACKED: Canterbury City Council leader John Gilbey, right, understands frustrations caused by the closure

He said: "The consultation that the Highways Agency had with Canterbury City Council was negligible. It didn't involve us nearly enough in deciding what would happen with these works."

The Highways Agency, however, does not accept that, saying that consultation with the local council, as well as with other groups, was full and proper.

A spokesman said: "The A299/A256 diversion was agreed following consultation with Kent Police, Kent County Council and Canterbury City Council as being the most sensible option, as those roads are high-speed and have few junctions."

There is criticism of the route that has been put in place for drivers travelling to the Port of Dover.

At some 40 miles out of their way, it is a cost that many hauliers can not afford, according to Terry Hudson, spokesman for the Alliance of British Drivers in Kent.

Mr Hudson, who lives in Whitstable, told KoS: "Obviously the Highways Agency has got a very difficult problem as the road's crumbling and it needs to be fixed.

"However, for such an important international road, which has so much freight going to Europe, there needs to be much, much better signage.

"Lorries shouldn't have to take a 40-mile detour just to get to the port. That's a massive addition to the expense of hauling goods and so it's understandable that those vehicles want to try to dodge the problem by taking short-cuts down country lanes.

"The signage is awful for car-drivers as well, which means they end up having to go miles out of their way or getting stuck down country lanes swamped with traffic as well.

"It obviously needs to be done, but I wonder whether it could have been done in a better way."

The Highways Agency insists that the diversion – 38.8 miles, to be precise – should only take an extra 15 minutes.

The spokesman for the agency said: "Alternative diversion routes using local roads or the M20 would have resulted in longer journey times to Dover."

And, as if accepting that the signage was insufficient, the agency said it was doing work to improve it.

"Following feedback since the work has started, we have installed additional signage to advise road-users of the diversion routes to Dover and Canterbury and we strongly encourage drivers to use these while we complete this necessary work, which will replace 30-year-old infrastructure and lessen the likelihood of individual emergency closures and repairs in the future," said the spokesman.

Mr Hudson, meanwhile, doubtless spoke for many motorists when he said: "I just hope that they've actually repaired it for the long term this time.

"Too often we see shoddy work done, which means that the road needs to be dug up and resurfaced again a couple of years after it was last done.

"All we can really hope for at this point is that it is done well and doesn't need to be fixed any time soon."

Stage production gives refugees chance to tell their side of the story

By Dave Mairs
dave.mairs@archant.co.uk

THEY come over here, they take up space in our detention centres for months on end and even get a free flight back to the country they've fled in terror.

This isn't something you hear people saying about refugees very often.

The impact of immigration on Britain is perceived by many, whatever the facts of the situation, as largely negative – overcrowding, unemployment, strain on public services.

But a theatrical event in Canterbury next month aims to change that perception by letting the refugees themselves tell their stories.

Moving A Country: Refugee Stories is a collaboration between Kent Refugee Help, a charity that supports detainees in Dover Immigration Removal Centre, and the Centre for Colonial and Postcolonial Studies at the University of Kent.

The five-hour extravaganza of readings, poetry, drama and talks will include a performance of the play Of Another World by award-winning writer Avaes Mohammad, which tells the story of an immigrant moving to the UK and living on the streets

"We wanted to provide a platform for former detainees to speak and share their stories, as immigrants and asylum-seekers are not really provided with that," said Dr Bahriye Kemal, one of the organisers, who lectures in the department.

"We also aim to raise awareness of Kent Refugee Help's work."

Refugees will talk about their experiences of leaving their homes behind and moving to Britain and what they have brought to the country.

The audience will be encouraged to think about what they would take with them if they moved abroad, whether in terms of material possessions or skills and abilities.

"We want to point towards the contribution immigrants make to the UK and counter the official narrative of them being a burden," Dr Kemal explained.

"There is this dominant idea about them coming into the country and getting benefits and jobs, but there is a misrepresentation of what they receive.

"Even my closest friends and family end up saying things like 'They come into this country, they get benefits and a house...' whereas the truth is they are detained indefinitely, possibly for up to five years, as they don't tend to have any documents.

"They are tagged and constantly moved from place to place. Some of them have been here for 10 years and they are still not citizens."

She says many immigrants are deported from the UK but cannot go home because they are unsafe or unwelcome in their own country.

"They are sent back to dangerous places because I guess they don't want them here," Dr Kemal said.

"They go back and forth, back and forth – there is a sense of statelessness. Sometimes they don't let them out of the airport because they are in danger. Some of them have gone back and been severely tortured – they still bear the scars. They have had their nails ripped out or their families have been attacked.

IT'S PLAY TIME: Dr Bahriye Kemal, left, during the production rehearsals

"There are some horrific stories.

"These are the painful truths that the media tends not to expose."

She found out how difficult the immigration process can be first-hand when her husband Hakki, from northern Cyprus, applied to live with her in the UK.

The pair met in Cyprus when Dr Kemal, who was born in London and has always lived in England, was visiting family – but he was refused permission to join her back in the UK, where she was studying for her PhD.

"I was able to fight his case because I have the language and he was allowed in after three months – but it could have taken more than a year," she said.

"There was no way we would have applied for benefits as we didn't want to lessen his chances of becoming a citizen.

"That's what pushed me to be a part of Kent Refugee Help.

"The detainees don't have the skills to help themselves – we support them so they feel they are not alone, there's someone who is helping them, and they can have hope that the UK can become their home.

"Migration and cultural diversity enriches our country."

The event will take place at the Penny Theatre, 30-31 Northgate, Canterbury, from 2pm to 7pm on Saturday, October 25.

For more information, phone Bahriye Kemal on 07518 626558.

Team Leaders / Supervisors who wish to develop the knowledge and skills required to lead and manage their teams

ILM Management Programme in Team Leading

Commencing 6th November 2014 at our Rochester centre

A combined diploma sized knowledge and competence qualification designed by the Institute for Leadership and Management (ILM) for Team Leaders / Supervisors with a degree of authority.

THE PROGRAMME – This one year programme gives employed Team Leaders / Supervisors the opportunity to develop the core competences needed in today's dynamic business world and is supported with 5 half day workshops run about 6 weekly, a level 2 diploma, maths, English, ICT, ERR (Employees Rights and Responsibilities), PLTS (Personal Learning and Thinking Skills) and visits to the workplace by an assessor during and after the workshop programme and commences on the 6th November 2014.

THE COST – Normally priced at around £1,500, however, for a limited time if you are eligible* there is some part funding available and we are able to reduce this price to only £250 + VAT and you can spread the payments, interest free, over the first two months.

Special Early Bird offer: Why not take advantage of our early bird booking discount – book your place by 4 pm on Friday 24th October 2014 for just £200 + VAT!!

***Subject to status**

Call Andy Springett on 01634 298800 • 07515 587170
• e-mail: andyspringett@ips-international.com • www.ips-international.com

Orchard Fencing ltd

Catford
020 8698 4064
Ardoch Road,
Catford,
London SE6 1SZ

Erith
01322 347799
Landau Way,
Darent Park
Industrial Estate,
Wallhouse Road,
Erith, Kent DA8 2LF

Welling
020 8855 6961
Stephenson Close,
Welling,
Kent DA16 3AT

Call us today for a competitive price!

info@orchardfencing.co.uk | www.orchardfencing.co.uk

Barrister backs campaign groups in saying council plan is legally flawed

By Jamie Weir
jamie.weir@archant.co.uk

WHAT NOW? CPRE's Brian Lloyd, right, agrees with Richard Harwood's view that alternatives were not considered

A PLANNING barrister has judged Canterbury's Local Plan as legally unsound due to its alleged failure to properly assess sustainability and environmental impact in increasing the number of houses it is planning for the district by more than 50 per cent.

Richard Harwood QC was commissioned by Herne and Broomfield Parish Council, backed by environmental campaign group CPRE Kent and other local organisations including the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies, the Canterbury Society, Westbere Parish Council and a coalition of many of the area's residents' groups to judge whether the Local Plan was legally compliant.

Mr Harwood concluded that when Canterbury City Council raised its housing target, it should have also reassessed the impact on habitats and the environment, and whether or not the proposed distribution of housing remained appropriate and sustainable. When it failed to do so, it compromised the legal soundness of the plan, according to campaigners.

In January 2010, the council consulted on its Local Plan, which had a target of 10,200 new homes by 2026 – that added up to an average of 510 new houses each year.

In 2012, that target was increased by more than 50 per cent to 15,600 new homes by 2031, making the average rate of building 780 houses a year.

However, despite the increase, the council relied on its earlier environmental assessments of where new development should be located.

CPRE Kent is arguing that Local Plan-making rules require that environmental assessments are double-checked to ensure no better options are available when circumstances change so dramatically.

It says that the council, by sticking to its original preferred option for locating development, has failed to reconsider possible alternatives for its larger housing target.

According to the campaigners' legal expert, this goes against guidance on how such environmental assessments of the plan should be carried out.

The group points to two landmark High Court judgements that have already shown this to be the case – one against Forest Heath District Council and the other against Broadland District Council, South Norfolk District Council and Norwich City Council.

Mr Harwood said: "A multi-stage process is permissible, but it needs to address the proposals and alternatives in the plan which is finally produced, to have an Environmental Report in accordance with the Strategic Environmental Assessment Directive and have been subject to public consultation at the relevant stages.

"The council failed to do this – it did not properly assess the level of development it is now proposing and it was legally incorrect to conclude the Local Plan was not likely to result in significant effects on European sites."

CPRE Kent senior planner Brian Lloyd said: "Mr Harwood's opinion backs up our own conclusions, which we have already submitted to the council. The council has seemingly, from the outset, cast in stone the sites it wants to see developed and despite high levels of public opposition it has not been prepared to consider alternatives. We suggested a better approach, but the council dismissed it without undertaking any assessment."

Mr Lloyd gives the example of the south Canterbury site, where he says the council failed to consider any alternative to the number of homes proposed – a grand total of 4,000.

He also points out a major change to the plan at the last minute when it was proposed to relocate the Kent and Canterbury Hospital to the south Canterbury site.

Even then, there was no change to the site assessment despite the sustainability issues that the campaigners say that it would create.

CPRE Kent is now calling on the council – which is due to submit the Local Plan for examination before the end of the year – to accept that the plan is flawed.

Canterbury City Council's assistant director of planning and regeneration, Ian Brown, said: "We received a copy of this opinion and of course we'll be looking at what it says.

"We have taken our own advice, which is that we've carried out the relevant studies that we're required to do, but all opinion is helpful when you're trying to deliver something as complex as a plan for the future of the district until 2031. So we will certainly have this opinion assessed."

Save up to £2,000 with Britelite's fantastic

SCRAPPAGE SCHEME†

PLUS 45% OFF* ALL WINDOWS THIS AUTUMN

Britelite is now a Which? Trusted Trader

Which? Trusted trader

TRIPLE GLAZING

FITTED AS STANDARD

A Britelite window is the most beautiful addition you can make to your home. Britelite windows will even add value to your property when the time comes to sell. Save £££'s off your heating bill with our high performance Triple Glazed windows. A Britelite window will perfectly complement your home and what's more, we fit Triple Glazing as standard. We recycle 95% of the windows we remove when fitting our new Triple Glazing, which allows us to offer an additional scrappage discount.

BRITELITE
Windows, Doors & Conservatories

Showrooms throughout the South East
See website for full addresses

Call Free 0800 50 50 70

Visit our website for a FREE online quote
www.britelitewindows.co.uk

*Off list price for orders placed by midnight 23/11/2014.
Cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. † Scrappage on windows only

BRITELITE IS PROUD TO INTRODUCE A NEW INNOVATION

Livin ROOF

Livin ROOF is the first roofing system designed to give you the flexibility to combine solid and glazed roofing seamlessly.

Whether you are constructing a new home extension or replacing an old existing conservatory roof the Livin ROOF can give you total design flexibility and the ability to create stylish and thermally efficient rooms like no other solution on the market.

The Livin ROOF roofing system is constructed from insulated composite external panels and Kingspan slab insulation, which are strong and robust yet extremely thermally efficient. It helps you extend your living space and enhances energy efficiency to give you a room that you can use all year round.

BRITELITE
Windows, Doors & Conservatories

To find out more about this exciting new product

Call Free 0800 50 50 70

Visit our website for a FREE online quote

www.britelitewindows.co.uk

AIRPORT CONNECTIONS

SHUTTLE SERVICE

Gatwick and Heathrow daily for only

NO DRAMA
NO HASSLE
NO FUSS
NO STRESS
NO PARKING

£40 SINGLE PER PERSON | **£75** RETURN PER PERSON

Collection times from:
2am • 4am • 9am • 1pm

£65 2 PEOPLE SINGLE | **£120** 2 PEOPLE RETURN

PICK UP POINTS

- MARGATE
- RAMSGATE
- BROADSTAIRS
- BIRCHINGTON
- WESTGATE
- SANDWICH
- DEAL
- DOVER
- FOLKESTONE
- HERNE BAY
- WHITSTABLE
- FAVERSHAM
- CANTERBURY
- ASHFORD

RETURN FROM
HEATHROW
08.00 • 10.00 | 15.00 • 19.00

RETURN FROM
GATWICK
08.45 • 10.45 | 15.45 • 19.45

01843 823007
01843 823700

For more information on our services go to:
www.connections4you.net

NEWQUAY EXPRESS

Enjoy any of our 4, 5 and 6 night stays in lovely Newquay in picturesque Cornwall
(Payment plans are available)

Arrival Date	Nights	Departure Date	Board	Duration	Single	Couple
9th May 2015	5	14th May 2015	HB	Sat-Thurs	£425	£650
22nd May 2015	4	26th May 2015	HB	Fri-Tues	£390	£565
7th June 2015	6	13th June 2015	HB	Sun-Sat	£480	£785
21st June 2015	6	27th June 2015	HB	Sun-Sat	£480	£785
17th July 2015	4	21st July 2015	HB	Fri-Tues	£425	£645
10th Aug 2015	6	16th Aug 2015	HB	Mon-Sun	£510	£845
31st Aug 2015	4	4th Sept 2015	HB	Mon-Fri	£425	£685
13th Sept 2015	6	19th Sept 2015	HB	Sun-Sat	£480	£785
23rd Sept 2015	4	27th Sept 2015	HB	Wed-Sat	£425	£650

These prices include: Transport to and from Newquay, Hotel incl Dinner, Bed and Breakfast. Full Day Trip (incl Entrance Fee) to **EDEN PROJECT** in St. Austell, Cornwall and Half Day trip to **PADSTOW**.

Padstow

Eden Project

Our chosen Hotel is situated right on the seafront in Newquay with its stunning beaches. It is just a 10 minute walk from Newquay Town Centre and just 200 yards from Tolcarne Beach. There are plenty of facilities at the hotel, including a heated indoor swimming pool, jacuzzi and sauna, as well as an enclosed outdoor terrace and patio. Also at the hotel is a beauty salon and games room. There is a coffee shop which offers a selection of light snacks and refreshments. The hotel has a main ballroom which offers entertainment throughout the year and has a large dance floor and bar, it's a popular spot each evening and a perfect place to relax and unwind whilst enjoying your holiday in this glorious part of the south-west.

Find us on Facebook

To Book or for more information call: **Connections4youLtd on 01843 823007 / 823700**

www.connections4you.net

Huge opposition to development fails to stop plan for 6,000 homes

Despite an 8,000-signature petition and referendum condemning development, 1,000 acres of countryside will be turned into housing, as **Sarah Linney** reports

ALMOST 6,000 homes are to be built on countryside just outside Ashford after a hugely controversial development was finally given the go-ahead.

Some 1,000 acres of countryside at Chilmington Green, on the south-west side of the town, are to be razed in what villager Sarah Dacre called a "ferocious and unnecessary housing programme".

Despite massive opposition, including a petition signed by 8,000 people and a parish referendum in which more than 80 per cent of people opposed the development, the council says the borough needs houses and this is the best way to provide them.

The tiny hamlet of Chilmington Green, which has 11 listed buildings, some dating back to Tudor times, will now become unrecognisable.

The application – the biggest ever to come before the council – has been in the pipeline for years but was finally approved at a marathon five-hour meeting on Wednesday night.

Dozens of people were in the public gallery – so many that a video link had to be set up as they could not all fit in the chamber.

Such was the strength of feeling that instead of the one speaker in favour of the application and one against normally allowed at planning meetings, 10 speakers were permitted to put the case for why the plans should be stopped.

Peter Williamson, of Chilmington Green Road, told the meeting: "Ashford council and the Government have said on numerous occasions they are listening to the community.

"They are ignoring them.

"You have been elected by the people of Ashford. What gives you the audacity to ignore the vast majority of these people and impose this carbuncle on us?

"It is wrong to allow a few stakeholders with personal agendas to ruin beautiful countryside."

Mr Williamson and Karen Hopkins, from the Keep Chilmington Green campaign, were among those who raised concerns about the effect of the development on the town's hospitals, roads, water supplies and emergency services, all already over-stretched.

"To destroy 1,000 acres of countryside is nothing short of vandalism," Ms Hopkins said.

"Your core strategy says development should be jobs-led. If this development is set to create 1,000 jobs, what about the other 9,000?"

Fellow campaigner John Durrant said: "Any reasonable council would want to protect the hamlet and possibly make it a conservation area.

"It appears that the democratic systems are being subverted in the interests of the developers."

Mick Carr said that the strength of feeling against the development had been apparent during his campaign to stop it.

"The anger of the majority of people on the doorstep was tangible," he said. "Some wanted a march on the council and to lie down in front of diggers."

Speaker Matthew Peach pointed out the many brownfield sites the borough has that could be developed and urged councillors: "Let your legacy to the people of Ashford be that you had the moral fibre to do what we all know deep down is the right thing."

However, Bob Sellwood, from developer Sellwood Planning, said this was the best way to build houses in the borough.

GREEN BUT NOT SO PLEASANT LAND? How Chilmington Green will look in the future with its 6,000 homes

"The alternative would be a large number of small sites around the borough which would have very little identity and would not be able to fund the necessary infrastructure," he said.

And Ian McClintock, the chairman of Great Chart with Singleton Parish Council, said Ashford council had no real option but to allow the development.

"Refusal would result in an appeal which in light of Government policies would almost certainly be upheld," he said.

"The developers would then build in an *ad hoc* manner. Those of us who have worked hard to ensure a well-designed development do not want to see this happen."

Cllr Paul Clokie said building was necessary to ensure there were enough homes for future generations.

"If we don't expand the town we will have the same situation as in Tenterden – few of our children can afford to rent, let alone buy, a house," he said.

"A lot has been made of the suggestion that we don't listen to people. But we also have to take into account the people of the borough. I believe people prefer to live in houses, not flats, and the only way they can get houses is by taking new land."

Council leader Gerry Clarkson added: "It's easy to go with a large number of people who are objecting. That isn't the tough call.

"The tough call is to go with what you feel is best for the majority."

Cllr Peter Davison was one of only two committee members, out of 16, to vote against the proposals, saying: "We are getting rid of farmland at a time of world food shortages.

"Most of the 1,000 jobs created will be for builders, and most of them will be brought in by the developers from elsewhere. It is not fair for Ashford to take an unfair share of the national shortfall of housing."

Elected by the people, but time officials did the people's will

"THE only tourist attraction Ashford has is its beautiful countryside."

Those were the words of Tony Porter, from Shadoxhurst Parish Council, as he addressed Wednesday's meeting as an opponent of the development.

I live in Ashford, and am fond of it. But he is right. The town is not noted for its beauty. The countryside around it, though – the Stour Valley, Ehe Weald, Romney Marsh – that's a very different matter.

Our countryside is invaluable, and irreplaceable. But that doesn't seem to matter to Ashford council's planning committee, who appear to have been persuaded by developers that trashing it to build 5,750 little boxes is an act that the people of the borough are going to thank them for.

Ten years ago, when Ashford was first designated a growth area, I thought it was exciting. I believed expansion would transform the town for the better.

But it hasn't happened. Ashford has seen more houses go up than John Prescott has had hot dinners. But the jobs, the facilities, the culture, the improvements, haven't come. Expansion has not made the town better, just bigger.

The council says we need still more houses, that we have a crisis. But the case was not made at Wednesday's meeting. We were simply told that it is so.

KoS SAYS...

Even if it is, there are other ways of creating homes that do not involve ruining our countryside.

There are endless brownfield sites around the borough that could be developed, for a start.

People talk about 'quality homes', but we also need to have quality of life – and that is severely diminished if we can no longer enjoy the beauty and freshness of nature.

Wednesday's meeting felt almost shocking as, despite having heard 10 speakers passionately oppose the plans, councillor after councillor got up and said what a great idea they thought they were. It was as if they had been in a different room for the past two hours.

And this wilful dismissal of public opinion is as appalling as the destruction of our countryside.

Councillors Paul Clokie and Gerry Clarkson say they need to take the decisions that are best for the borough.

As if we, the voters of Ashford, are five years old, and they are our parents, and they need to choose for us because we are too undeveloped to know what is best for us ourselves.

No. They are elected, by us, to represent us. Their job is to listen to what we think and act in accordance with our wishes.

Yet with the same apparent arrogance with which it dismissed people's concerns in the chamber, the council refused to take part in any interviews the following day.

Not only do members seem to feel they don't need to listen to the electorate, they don't even need to explain their actions afterwards.

A number of remarks were made on Wednesday about voters holding the council to account for this decision in May's council elections.

Ashford's voters do not have a history, whatever bad decisions have been made, of actually doing anything about it in the ballot box.

I hope that this time, they show their mettle for once.

Sarah Linney

mydate24

Try it.. You'll love it!

YOUR local dating service, run by the dating experts who have been established since 1990. ***REAL people in YOUR area..***

Here's how to use your mydate24 dating service ...

Place your advert call:
0844 887 2316
and follow the simple instructions

To ***Place*** your ad by text
Simply text **REG** followed by your first name, date of birth, area and your advert (max 155 characters) and send to **80098**
FREE Standard Network rates apply.

To ***Reply*** to members from your landline call:
0906 515 7112
calls cost £1.53 per min

Have the adverts 6-digit box no written down and do ***key-it-in promptly*** when asked. Don't forget to leave contact details for replies.

To ***Reply*** to members from your mobile call **68118**
calls cost £1.50 per minute plus network charges
Or ***Text..*** **REPLY2** (leave a space) the six-digit box number (leave a space) and then enter your message & send to **80098** eg: **REPLY2** 123456 ***hi get in touch...*** then send to **80098** Successfully forwarded messages cost £1.50 per message (Max 160 characters). You must exchange 7 messages each before you can swap contact details. Messages may be moderated for your safety and security.

Date ***ONLINE***
YOU can now date online or via your **mobile**
Simply ***VISIT*** us at:
www.bbjournal24.mydate24.co.uk

Been left a message?
Pickup your replies on:
0906 515 7114
calls cost £1.53 per min

THE biggest UK on-line database of 17 million UK REAL users waiting to meet ***you***.. ***visit..*** **www.bbjournal24.mydate24.co.uk**

Women Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. mydate24

JANINE 36, faithful, sincere, will never stray seeking similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414629**

MAUREEN, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. **Tel No: 0905 002 1961 Box No: 405297**

JANE 48yr old young looking professional female, tall, green eyes, attractive, size 12-14, enjoys walking, keeping active, nights in/out, good wine/conversation, seeking soul mate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414729**

ANNA, busty mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. **Tel No: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 366019**

ELAINE 30, fit, sexy, curvy black lady, very feminine, loves wining, dining, nights in, seeks solvent white 40's male who is passionate, loving and caring. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414711**

CHRISTINA, curvy beauty, 27yrs, own home, very very adventurous seeks no strings fun and frolics. Can accommodate and will answer all calls. **Tel No: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 410127**

DAWN 34, petite auburn haired female, size 12, sensitive, loving, affectionate, WLTM similar homely male who will spend lots of quality times with me for ltr. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414499**

GILLY, voluptuous well groomed lady, seeks man to massage and pamper. Married exciting men please apply. **Tel No: 0905 002 1933 Box No: 412933**

PETITE Asian lady, slim, N/S, seeks genuine N/S male for wining/dining, fun and frolics. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414515**

SALLY, 36yrs discreet broad-minded lady seeks absolutely no strings adult fun, any age/area. Aca. **Tel No: 0905 002 1945 Box No: 410575**

KAREN 35 petite dark hair/eyed affectionate, caring, lovely female with many interests looking for genuine tlc from loving soul mate, dark haired preferred. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414487**

RACHAEL, 36yrs, looking good for my age but need some daytime excitement. **All text's answered. Box 4507091 Text Only**

JULIE good looking 40's female, medium build, size 12, loveable, considerate, OHAC, likes nights in/out, walking, seeking loving male without lots of baggage. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414387**

DIANNA, down to earth single mum. Kids at school and bored all day. Come round and see me, or text and chat. Discretian assured. **Box 4507092 Text Only**

HELEN 19yr old bubbly female looking for male to take me out and show me a good time. No pressure just fun times, no time wasters. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414223**

FREE single 25yr old busty curvy black beauty, sensual, confident, interesting, looking for handsome man to call me back. Race/age unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414219**

BLUE eyed slim pretty easy going hardworking lady seeking male to put the spark back into my life, must be honest, affectionate, have a GSOH and wont to work at a relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414217**

MO 36yr old slim blue eyed pretty blonde looking for fun times with non-judgemental, discreet, kind male. Age/status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414215**

KATIE 26yr old pretty slim blue eyed blonde looking for evening entertainment with open-minded discreet guy, any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412319**

JANE 29, loves riding and spending time horsing around, seeking non serious kind of normal guy who enjoys going out having a good time. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414205**

SHARON 32yrs and still soul searching for Mr Right, I enjoy keeping in shape, caring for people, seeking loving respectful guy who also knows a good time. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412049**

KAREN young looking attractive vibrant slim blonde, enjoys to keep fit, beach walks, travel, meals in/out, good conversation with pleasant company, WLTM genuine sincere male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414203**

SANDRA attractive lady seeking someone special to help regain my trust in the male species. Only genuine guys pls, I will be worth your time, you won't be disappointed. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414195**

TRACY 35yr busty bubbly out there sized 18 lady looking for a caring loving guy who appreciates womanly curves, over indulgences and having fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414189**

MARY tall blonde size 12 lady, nice personality, good conversationalist, varied and open to interests, loves weekends away/holidays, seeking similar male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414179**

SLIM tall, elegant, feminine, N/S, solvent lady, young 50's, likes travel, red wine, seeks tall, sincere, military, retired, professional gentleman of high calibre. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414251**

WIDOW late 60's, likes most things, seeking a lonely gent, 70-75 to make me love and laugh again. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414093**

FEMALE seeking male for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413809**

68YR old widow, seeking company of a male, 68-75 for friendship, likes cinema, theatre, nights in, meals out, seaside walks. Wants someone to help me love again. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413689**

BBW 51, caring, solvent, seeks male of similar age for fun times and socialising. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413621**

FEMALE 38, attractive, African, single mum, seeks male, 35-50 for nights out, socialising, friendship and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412793**

PETITE slim blonde 39yrs, pretty big blue eyes, looking for similar easygoing older male to put a spark back into my life, enjoy nights in/out and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412327**

WIDOW 70, lonely, seeking gent, 70-75 to bring a bit of sparkle back in life, likes theatre, cinema. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412475**

JANE 29yr old horsey female, loves the outdoors, cycling, as well as duvet days, WLTM not too serious male for a hopefully normal relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412315**

MARY 5ft 6in size 12 blonde, nice personality, good conversationalist, interesting, lots of interests WLTM likeminded caring, happy male. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412169**

CLARE 36yrs successful single mum, independent, employed with OHAC, size 10, green eyes, pretty, likes swimming, family life, seeking male with similar values and interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412053**

SLIM petite, attractive brunette, 56, British/Russian origin, excellent cook/home maker, seeks cultured male for serious relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412129**

FREYA 33 6ft blonde, loves dancing and have a good time, employed, own home, one son, seeking similar laidback guy/dad for dates, chats and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412045**

MARILYN really nice curvy tactile female, loves romantic walks, cosy nights in, quality times, looking for nice male to spend time and fall in love with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411871**

JAN 5ft 6ins, dark hair/eyes, nice smile, likes music, travel, countryside, animals, employed, OHAC, looking for companionship with similar lonely heart. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411865**

SARAH 25 petite slim attractive blonde student, enjoys keeping fit, looking good, socialising, going out, being a mum WLTM similar fun genuine guy. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411537**

JULIE attractive outgoing female with a very young attitude, loves running, living life, travel, WLTM someone special to make my life complete, hope you're out there. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411513**

LINDA 37, green eyes, attractive, bubbly size 12, enjoys cosy nights in, text chats, seeking tallish fun guy for meals out, pubs, clubs and spending quality times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411033**

64YR old lady, seeking male for friendship, companionship, outings and interesting conversation. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411975**

CUSTOMER SUPPORT
Call 0207 720 7130 Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm
or email us at support@jmediauk.co.uk

Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.53 per minute plus network extras. mydate24

LATE 60's male, fit, 5ft 10ins, GSOH, usual trappings, likes nice restaurants etc, slim, reliable, seeks nice lady for whatever comes. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414643**

MID 30's passive guy, who loves to dress up, wants to meet older guys for daytime fun in Tunbridge Wells area. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4517381**

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421**

MATURE closet cd seeks mature cd for discreet fun. Can accommodate or travel. **Text Only Mailbox Box No: 4509706**

SINGLE male, early 50's, seeking female for discreet meets, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414347**

39YR old guy, 6ft 2ins, slim-medium build, seeking female for no strings fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414259**

LADY companion 60-70 wanted for elderly gent, likes travel with property abroad. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414133**

AMIABLE intelligent male, 77, light smoker, seeks slim lady for friendship/companionship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413127**

MATURE male, looking for discreet meetings with female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413039**

MALE seeking attractive female for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409189**

FRANK 54, 5ft 10ins, blue eyes, blond hair, smoker, seeking friendship with mature female, 40-60. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412893**

67YR old male, slim, 5ft 5ins, many interests, likes holidays, meals out, seeking slim female 55-65 with GSOH to share TLC. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414023**

BLUE eyed male, fit, toned, likes socialising, travel, OHAC, seeks female, 40-56 for loving, caring relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413981**

MALE seeking Asian female, any age, outgoing, likes outdoors for fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413965**

KEEN cyclist 58, non-competitive, seeks similar female for sea wall, countryside ride, walking etc for fun, laughs and whatever. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413337**

RETIRED engineer 67, likes meals out, nights in, holidays, seeking slim lady, 60-65, young at heart to wine/dine, friendship and more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413161**

RETIRED male, seeks attractive female for friendship and fun, any age/status/colour. East Kent, can travel. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 413133**

COMPANY Director, mature, late 50's, seeking female, any age for mutually rewarding friendship, Kent/Surrey area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412819**

MALE seeking female to love and be loved back. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 408941**

IAN 5ft 11ins, likes rock/roll, singing, making people laugh, seeking someone special. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412799**

WRITER tall, slim, dark hair, generous, seeking broadminded lady for fun times. Any age/status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412749**

BARRY divorced, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412717**

MALE seeking friendship of mature woman, smoker. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412703**

SINGLE young lady, slim-medium build, 24-38 sought by mature male in Canterbury. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

MALE 48, looking for fun loving female to enjoy outdoor activities, nights in and meals out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392212** **JAMES** young, free and single, please give me a call if interested. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412345**

EX headmaster, tall, dark, seeks adventurous lady, status unimportant. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412263**

MALE 49, 5ft 10ins, likes cinema, reading, walks, seeks female in the Thanet area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412235**

BESIDE the Pointe. Literate self-possessing, legginess, kindred spirit sought by white male for elevating the bar. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412223**

45YR old male, likes poetry, seeks companion for relationship. Herne Bay area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411993**

CHIPS on the pier, walks on the beach/countryside, VGSOH, 58yrs old, fit male, seeks female for laughs and love and whatever. NE Kent. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411725**

MALE 5ft 11ins, good-looking, athletic build, looking for discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411477**

DEREK seeking female, 50-60 for company, friendship and have fun together. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411433**

MALE 49, attractive, fit, spontaneous, good company, no ties, seeking likeminded lady for the road ahead, nights in and out. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411309**

RAY 63, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired, seeking no strings discreet meets for adult fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411147**

WORLD war veteran seeking happy lady with nice conversation in the Kent area. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411133**

PAUL own business, looking for daytime fun with lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411127**

DAVE 65, retired, N/S, likes gardening, music, meals out, holidays, seeks female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410971**

DAVE 62, 5ft 10ins, slim, semi-retired builder, seeks no strings discreet daytime meets for adult fun. Surrey. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410899**

MALE likes outdoor life, smoker, seeking local female for cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410755**

BRIAN 70, Maidstone, seeking female, 60 plus, likes meals out, cinema, theatre, days out and cosy nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410611**

DEREK 5ft 11ins, slim-medium build, loving, caring, seeking black lady for possible relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410511**

EARLY 50's single male, smoker, seeking likeminded female for company and to share life. Must have GSOH, like animals, walks, home made food and nights in. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410441**

41YR old male, dark hair, 5ft 11ins, easy going, likes music, guitar, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410411**

CANTERBURY mature male, medium build, GSOH, varied interests, sign language interpreter, seeks slim-medium build female, 24-42 for LTR. Single mum welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 405697**

PHIL 6ft, clean shaven, blue eyes, smart, likes sports, walks, films, theatre, music, animals, GSOH, seeks female, 40-55 for fun and friendship, maybe more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410351**

RETIRED male, fit, active, seeks no strings discreet meet with female, any age and size. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410343**

ADVENTUROUS male, mid 50's, seeks similar lady for fun and mutually enjoyable discreet relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410339**

CHRIS widower likes DIY, gardening, nights out, rock and roll, N/S, looking for LTR with female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410191**

ATTRACTIVE white gent, 48, 56ft, romantic, easy going, GSOH, seeking young lady, 60-75 for quality discreet fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 410025**

DIVORCED male, seeks Oriental lady, likes animals, music, will take care of you forever. Thanet area, willing to travel. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409963**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409961**

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, fun loving, independent, OHAC, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Animals/children welcome. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409745**

TALL black male, 45, likes meals out, good company, romantic, GSOH, light hearted, seeks easy-going female. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409621**

RETIRED male, seeks no strings discreet meets with slim-medium build female, any age for adult fun. Dover. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 409533**

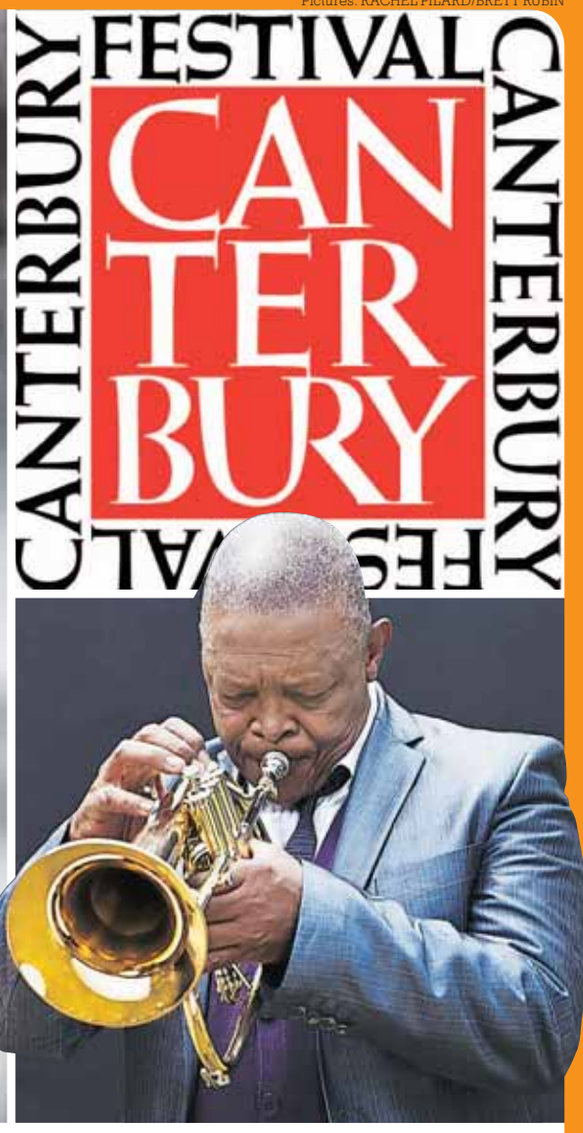
SEXY fireman, looking for love and fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 407883**

Follow us on twitter

CALL CHARGES*: DATING 18+ and have the bill payer's permission. 090 calls cost £1.53 per min. plus network charges. Calls from Mobiles will be considerably higher. Calls are recorded and may appear on your bill. TEXT*: Text alerts are charged at £1.50 per week. To unsubscribe to text alerts, text DATING STOP to 63333. To cancel free match alerts, text STOP to 07781474042. For full T&Cs go to www.localdates-terms.co.uk/. REPLY BY TEXT*: 80098/89990 costs £1.50 per SMS received (max 150 characters). Guaranteed to receive 1 - 4 messages for each message you send, Service only available where phone icon show. Messages are moderated. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. This service is not computer generated. All messages are responded to by real service users. No meetings can be guaranteed. If arranging a meeting be sure to chose a public space and do not give personal details to people you have not met. Some advertisers on this page come from our national database. To STOP text stop to 80098/89990. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 720 7130. ALL SERVICES*: By texting any shortcode you consent to the owner of that shortcode sending you the occasional marketing message. DATA PROTECTION: Service provided by JMedia UK Ltd, SW4 7BX, 0207 720 7130. We will collect the details you provide and may send you details of other services and events operated by us. We may pass your details onto this newspaper for marketing or PhonePayPlus for regulatory purposes. W/C 19/10/14

Pictures: RACHEL PILARD/BRETT RUBIN

EXTREME HIGHS: Acrobatic troupe Flown and renowned musician Hugh Masekela will be wowing the festival-goers



City's cultural extravaganza integral part of arts calendar

Molly Kersey speaks to Rosie Turner, the lady tasked with putting together the ever-popular Canterbury Festival

IT HAS established itself as one of the county's premier cultural highlights, offering a smörgåsbord of the arts spread thickly over a huge swathe of the county.

And this weekend sees the Canterbury Festival swing back into action for its annual two-week stay, offering everything from literature to live music and art to acrobats.

There are more than 200 events, both free and ticketed, taking place between now and Saturday, November 1, incorporating a host of venues and set to pull in more than 70,000 visitors.

Among the names appearing will be David Starkey, Simon Callow and Hugh Masekela.

With the festival now in its 31st year, director Rosie Turner is convinced it has become part of the fabric of the county.

She said: "I think the festival fills a very special place in the collective life of Canterbury and east Kent.

"We have a whole range of quality shows that wouldn't otherwise be seen in Canterbury and I think people look forward to seeming something different in the festival, and that's what keeps it alive.

"I think a lot of customers really do save their money for October."

It certainly sits well within a city famed for being perhaps the most cosmopolitan in the county.

Courtesy of the international appeal of its universities and the global attraction of its cathedral and streets awash with British history, it is no surprise that the festival will provide a showcase for a tremendous amount of international work.

Australian contemporary circus company Casus will be presenting the European premiere of its new show – Finding The Silence.

Ms Turner said: "They are a troupe of four incredible acrobats. They came last year – we were so blown away by their performance that we invited them back for a second year.

"What they can do with their bodies really has to be seen to be believed. It's thrilling to see them balanced on each others' shoulders."

Staying with the circus theme, Flown and Pirates Of The Carabina roll into The Marlowe Theatre next weekend. The troupe of acrobats, aerialists, daredevil stuntmen and musicians perform "in confidently choreographed chaos".

Other performance pieces will address some serious issues.

"It's not all about fun and games," said Ms Turner. "There's some very poignant and hard-hitting pieces of drama.

"One of them is called Inside – it's a one-woman play inspired by a true story about a poor girl who was taken hostage and locked in a basement for 12 years, and the play takes the form of her recording video messages to her mother.

"I think that's going to be one of the most intense experiences in

Continued on page 41 »

KEA

» Email us details of your event to:
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Tel: 01233 653476

Follow us @KOSMedia or www.kentnews.co.uk/leisure

She got her smile back
I got my wife back

Dental implants over 40% less… why pay more?

A smile is something you shouldn't have to compromise.

Our dental implants typically cost over 40% less than other implant services, so if you've had an expensive quote and would like to compare us, call today to arrange a free consultation.

At the New Tooth Company, we have developed a full range of services thanks to experienced clinicians, the very latest technology and our state-of-the-art clinic.

If you've lost confidence in your loose dentures, or live with the discomfort of failing teeth, we can help. Our Smile-in-a-Day package allows full upper or lower jaw implants in a single day.

Every day we help restore smiles and give patients a new lease of life. Let us do the same for you.

The New Tooth COMPANY

DENTAL IMPLANT CENTRES

CALL NOW OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO BOOK YOUR FREE CONSULTATION

Phone: **01622 630700** **www.thenewtooth.co**

« Continued from page 39

this year's festival."

For its opening and closing concerts, the festival will return to the nave of Canterbury Cathedral, where world-renowned bass baritone Sir Willard White will perform.

The Marlowe Theatre will be hosting a number of events, with unashamedly brash comedian and mental-health campaigner Ruby Wax bringing her Sane New World show there.

Ms Turner said: "For me, the big initial highlight has got to be Hugh Masekela. He really is a living legend, known as much for his stance against the apartheid regime as his music.

"Just the excitement of him and his band being in Canterbury is phenomenal."

> **"The festival enjoys good relationships with a number of schools and all the universities in the city"**

This year's festival will also coincide with the British Arts Festivals Association (BAFA) national conference, which is being held at Canterbury Christ Church University.

Ms Turner said: "It's incredibly exciting to be able to show off not just the festival but the city of Canterbury."

Like many events, the festival has been looking to the future after feeling the adverse effects of the recession on its corporate sponsorship support.

It has maintained local-authority support and plans to work with the community to keep the festival in the public eye (see panel).

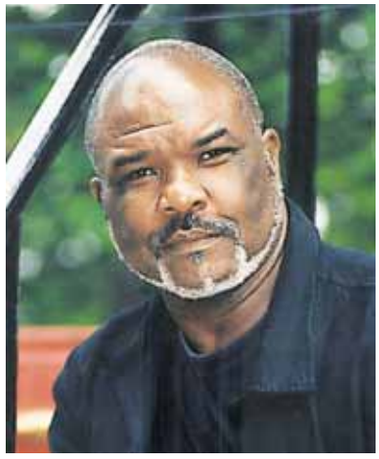
"The festival enjoys good relationships with a number of schools and all the universities in the city," Ms Turner said.

"The latest excitement in the festival office is that Canterbury Christ Church University has provided us with an office building, and we have just succeeded in raising enough funds to buy that from them."

And with this year's selection of intriguing and distinctive performances, the future looks promising.

Tickets for many events are still available. To find out more about the festival and the events that are taking place, you can visit www.canterburyfestival.co.uk.

Picture: FEN LAN CHUANG



MEGA MIX: From circus act Casus to hard-hitting drama Inside and opera's Willard White, there is variety in store

FUNDING BOOST

THE Arts Council's continuing support for the Canterbury Festival is a key part of its financial survival.

This summer, the festival had its 'national portfolio organisation' status confirmed for another three years, meaning it will receive support more than £431,220.

A spokesman for the festival explained: "Although the festival earns most of its income from selling tickets, and also works hard to attract sponsorship and donations, funding from the Arts Council enables the festival to put on exciting international events and to work with young people and communities year-round.

"Funding from the Arts Council helps to keep ticket prices low and supports lots of events which are totally free to enjoy. As the festival's mission is to offer something for everybody, on-going funding is important to strengthen and widen the programme and reach new audiences."

The festival also received a grant from Arts Council England under the Small Capital Scheme. This sum enableed it to buy and refurbish its headquarters in Canterbury by topping up the sum of £300,000 already raised through fund-raising events and donations.

Famous art under hammer

A CHARITY art auction takes place at Whitstable's Horsebridge Centre next Saturday (October 25).

More than 100 artists will have work featured, among them Billy Childish and Bagpuss creator Peter Firmin.

The South get beautiful

A BAND formed from the remains of chart-topping, multimillion-selling The Beautiful South head to The Orchard Theatre, Dartford, later this month as part of a nationwide jaunt.

The South, who feature Dave Hemingway and Alison Wheeler, will perform new songs and classics from The Beautiful South back catalogue on October 30.

Amos eyes Trinity date

COMEDIAN Stephen K Amos brings his Welcome To My World show to the Trinity Theatre in Tunbridge Wells on November 6.

Fresh from sell-out tours in Australia and New Zealand, the show starts at 8pm.

Duo's eclectic folk brew

FOLK acts Belinda O'Hooley and Heidi Tidow will be perfoming at the Astor Theatre in Deal next month.

Playing an eclectic blend of songs from traditional Irish ballads to covers of tracks by the likes of Massive Attack, they will also perform tracks from their album The Hum.

Star Wars rumour falls flat as work on Episode VII hots up

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

DESPITE persistent rumours that shooting of the new Star Wars movies could be made in Kent, it seems the Force will not be strong with this one.

Last year, it was widely reported Disney chiefs behind the new movies were interested in using a quarry close to the Bluewater shopping complex.

But now a number of sources close to the production unit say the likes of Han Solo, Princess Leia and Luke Skywalker – all being reprised by the original actors in the first of the new films due out next Christmas – will not be heading our way.

Much of the area is owned by property giant Land Securities and a source there said it had not been approached, as far as he knew.

But he was not in a position to rule out other plots of land in the area, although once more he had not heard of it happening.

And at the Kent Film Office, director Gabrielle Lindemann was at pains to dispel the rumours.

She told us: "If they intend to film in public, they have to come through us so we can sort out everything with the highways and councils.

"If it's on private land, usually we have an agreement that the location people let us know they are coming and we have to sign an agreement not to disclose anything.

"If that happened, I would pass on queries to the right publicity company.

"Having Stars Wars coming here is such an old rumour. My answer is that it's 99.9 per cent no. If something that big was coming to Kent, I am sure I would know about it. Location managers like to let us know."

STORMTROOPERS: But they won't be heading our way

The saga continues...

AFTER the mega-hits of the original trilogy of Star Wars films in the 1970s and 80s, the appetite for more movies continued to be ferocious.

When director George Lucas fulfilled fans' dreams by creating a prequel trilogy, cinemas were packed, but reviews were less than enthusiastic.

With Lucas vowing not to make any more, many feared a hopeful reunion of the original cast would remain nothing but a pipe dream.

But when Disney announced it was buying Lucasfilm in 2012 and planned a sequel to the original three movies, fans went into overload.

The first film, Star Wars: Episode VII, will be released on December 18, 2015. It is being shot at Pinewood Studios in London and will star the likes of original stars Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford and Carrie Fisher.

What's On in Your Local Area?

Get 100% For Your House. Quick Sale!
SOLD
Free Valuation
No Obligation - Call Now
020 8622 5013
YellowSpringbok.co.uk

£1,000 Off A Static Caravan @ Camber Sands
Call Charlotte to arrange your VIP appointment 07446 111 787
Camber Sands is open 12 months of the year!
Own your own caravan from as little as £8,995
or £1,00 deposit & £163 per month
Voucher only valid with Charlotte at Camber Sands TN31 7RT
Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer
Camber Sands Holiday Park, Park Resorts

ROSEMARY NURSERIES
Manston Road, Margate CT9 4LT
Pansies and Violas £2.00 pack of 6 • 5 packs for £8.00.
Trailing Pansies & Violas 80p per pot • 10 pots £5.00
Cyclamen - Primula - Dianthus - Ivy • Winter baskets from £6.50 - £14,00
ORDER YOUR NEW SEASON ROSES FOR A GREAT XMAS GIFT
Bush - Miniature - Climbers £4.00 bare root £6.00 potted on.
David Austin £10.00 bare root -£15.00 potted on.
Standard and half standard roses £15.00 bare root £18.00 potted on.
Ornamental and fruit trees all available bare root for two weeks from 1st December 2014
Open every day - Opening times: Mon to Sat 9-5 | Sun 10-4
yell.com - 01843 823282 - rosemarynurserys @yahoo.co.uk
(Find us between Spitfire memorial @ Kent Int Airport and Margate Crematorium)

New Year's Eve
Fancy Dress Party 2014
with the return of
The Vintage Corporation
Top 60s 70s Band
• 10 Piece Live Band • Dance Floor • Licenced Bar
• All ages welcome • Doors open 8pm
Bring your own food & snacks. All drinks must be purchased from the bar.
Bottle of Bubbly for best fancy dress
Tickets only £10
Groups of 10+ £8
£12 on the door
Hawkinge Community Centre
Heron Forstal Rd, Hawkinge, CT18 7FP
BOX OFFICE : 01233 733 933 - 01303 894 857
or buy tickets from Hawkinge Community Centre

SOUTHGATE
ELECTRICAL SERVICES
Rewires, alteraltions, aerials, alarms, FREE quotations. 'Fully qualified'
For enquiries call
01227 712790
07889 895394
NICEIC APPROVED CONTRACTOR
NICEIC DOMESTIC INSTALLER

AQUATICS WAREHOUSE KENT LTD
WWW.AQUATICWAREHOUSEKENT.CO.UK
KOI, COLDWATER & TROPICAL FISH
PONDS, PUMPS, FOODS, FILTRATION, HEATERS, TANKS, ACCESSORIES
POND & TANK MAINTENANCE & CONSTRUCTION, OUTSIDE WORK & BUILDS
ALL YOU NEED FOR COLD WATER & TROPICAL FISH
BASEMENT, REAR OF 114 HIGH STREET, HERNE BAY, KENT, CT6 5JY

From Downton with a message of hope

Famous faces will appear in two special free shows highlighting violence against girls and women

ONE of the stars of hit period drama Downton Abbey will escape the big house to hit the stage in one of two special free performances in Tonbridge this week.

The New Shoes Theatre production of the hard-hitting Hurried Steps takes place at the Angel Centre on Tuesday, with two performances.

Written by the internationally-acclaimed writer Dacia Maraini, Hurried Steps highlights the issue of violence against women and girls and "seeks to find an answer to the problem".

Appearing on stage will be Raquel Cassidy – Baxtor in Downton Abbey and the wife of Jack Dee's character in hit BBC sit-com Lead Balloon.

She will read the Civita story, which draws attention to the End Sexual Violence In Conflict campaign.

Souad Faress, who plays Usha in Radio 4 soap The Archers, will also appear.

A spokesman for the company said: "Nine stories from around the world are brought to life using a stark and powerful style. The play is inspired by real testimonies from Amnesty International.

"The short no-frills performance stimulates a discussion between the audience and an interesting panel of dedicated local fieldworkers and domestic-violence experts who support families in the west Kent area. The panel will include DAVSS advocates North Kent Women's Aid and young women who are peer-mentors.

"This is a hard-hitting production suitable for ages 15 upwards."

Writer Dacia Maraini has spent her career addressing women's issues. She was nominated for the Nobel Prize for Literature and short-listed for the International Man Booker Prize.

Tickets for the event are free. Designed to work around the school run, the shows take place at 12.30pm and 7.30pm on Tuesday (October 21).

To reserve seats, phone 01732 772685 or reserve online at www.newshoestheatre.org.uk.

STAR: Raquel Cassidy will appear at Tonbridge's Angel Centre

Cockney duo return

EVER-POPULAR Cockney duo Chas and Dave are back on the road again following the release of their first new studio album in 27 years.

The critically-acclaimed That's What Happens will get an airing when their Back By Demand tour returns to Kent for shows at Folkestone's Leas Cliff Hall on October 25, Tunbridge Wells's Assembly Hall Theatre on November 2 and Chatham's Central Hall on November 8.

Youth orchestra inspired

A HISTORIC photograph of the Earth from space is providing the inspiration behind the Orchestra ONE – Pale Blue Dot – sessions in which young musicians of all abilities have the opportunity to create and perform their own music.

Orchestra ONE Project 9 will be held at New Line Learning Academy in Maidstone on November 9, 16, 23 and 30. The course is free to join and open to young people aged 8 to 18 from across Kent and Medway.

Guild revives Witches

WEST End and Broadway hit The Witches of Eastwick will be staged for a special Hallowe'en run at the Gravesend Theatre Guild.

The show - turned into a movie with Jack Nicholson in 1987 - will run from October 29 to November 1 and is staged by the local theatre group.

The Gravesend Theatre Guild has built itself a reputation for presenting high-quality musicals and plays for more than 60 years.

Theatre up for top gong

THE Marlowe Theatre in Canterbury will learn tonight if it has picked up one of the industry's top awards, just three years after reopening.

It has been short-listed for the UK Theatre's Renee Stepham Award for 'best presentation of touring theatre'.

It is up against the likes of Sadler's Wells and Shakespeare's Globe, both in London.

The awards take place tonight (Sunday) at London's Guildhall.

Broome Park Golf Club | Barham, Nr Canterbury, Kent CT4 6QX

FREE!!!
2 MONTHS GOLF MEMBERSHIP
14 Months for the price of 12
(Join in November 2014 and pay no further fees until January 2016)
5 or 7 Day Categories only
NO JOINING FEES!!
This offer applies only to those who pay in full at time of joining

EASY ACCESS FROM M2/A2 or M20

For further information please contact Del or Claire on 01227 830728
www.broomepark.co.uk

Text BROOME to 67000 for a chance to WIN a tee time

Zombies, Nerf guns and terrified parents... it's the Scare School Academy

HAVE you ever wanted to scare the living daylights out of your parents?

How would you like to dress as a zombie and terrify them in a real haunted-house attraction?

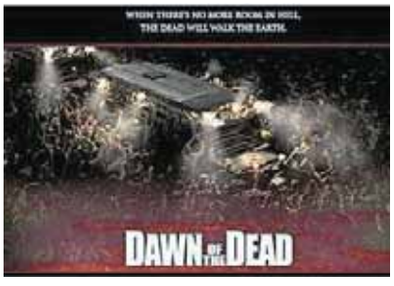
This Hallowe'en, Scare School Academy in Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, opens its doors to allow anyone between the ages of five and 15 to learn some real scary skills, from applying the perfect zombie make-up to practising some tried-and-tested scaring techniques.

The day even features an epic Nerf gun battle!

Best of all, you get to use everything you learn to perform in a real-live horror maze, Porky's Fear Factory... and your parents are the victims!

Scare School Academy runs from Monday to Friday, October 27-31. Visit www.scareschoolacademy.co.uk.

Open-air cinema offers thrills and chills this Hallowe'en



THE Open Air Cinema delivers picnic-style screenings and drive-ins throughout the country.

Its Hallowe'en Triple Bill event is just one of the many exciting events it has held in Kent for more than five years.

Visitors are always encouraged to dress up, sing along and dance.

Get your ticket and come along to Haguelands Village Farm, New Romney, on Saturday, November 1, all dressed up and have your picture taken for free.

Parents are welcome to bring their children for Ghostbusters and then return later without them for the more grown-up films at no extra cost. See one or all of the films on offer – it's up to you!

To hire the Open Air Cinema or just keep up to date with screenings and special offers, visit www.theopenaircinema.com.

Tickets for this Triple Bill Hallowe'en screening are limited and on sale now. Order your ticket today and save £20 as tickets will be £50 on the day.

Get your tickets today at www.theopenaircinema.com/tickets.

GHOSTBUSTERS

Triple Bill Halloween Drive-in

1 ticket per car for up to 6 people to see 1 or all 3 films

Saturday November 1st from 3:30pm

Haguelands Village Farm, Romney Marsh TN29 0JR

For tickets and information visit

www.theopenaircinema.com/tickets

THE OPEN AIR CINEMA ANY FILM ANYWHERE

02070999516

/theopenaircinema

/openaircinemauk

Buy your ticket today and save £20

Something different for less than a cinema ticket.

dress up and have your photo taken. arrive and leave during intervals. age restrictions apply. see details before booking

THE ULTIMATE FEARTRE SCHOOL

27TH - 31ST OCTOBER

10:30 AM - 5:00PM

TUNBRIDGE WELLS SCARE SCHOOL ACADEMY

HAVE YOU EVER WANTED TO SCARE THE LIVING DAYLIGHTS OUT OF YOUR PARENTS?

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRESS AS A ZOMBIE AND TERRIFY THEM IN A REAL HAUNTED HOUSE ATTRACTION?

WWW.SCARESCHOOLACADEMY.CO.UK

King's Rochester Sports Centre

KRSC Holiday ACTIVITIES

Have fun this autumn...

Take away some of the pressure this October and let us entertain your child at our Autumn Holiday Activity sessions. Our fully supervised sessions are full of fun-packed sporting and creative activities designed to keep your child occupied throughout the day. We have four different time slots available, giving you the opportunity to choose a session that suits your hectic schedule.

Activity Dates: 27th October - 31st October 2014 (Mon-Fri)

Age Group: 6-15 years old

Available Times:

Daytime Sessions	10am-4pm	£14.00
All Day Sessions (inc breakfast & dinner)	8am-6pm	£17.50
Morning Sessions (inc breakfast)	8am-12.30pm	£11.00
Afternoon Sessions (inc dinner)	1.30am-6pm	£12.00

King's Rochester Sports Centre TENNIS Camp

Monday 27th - Friday 31st October 2014

MINI RED TENNIS (5-8 years)	9.30am-11am	£33.75m	£40.25nm
MINI ORANGE TENNIS (8-9 years)	11am-12.30pm	£33.75m	£40.25nm
MINI GREEN TENNIS (10 years)	1.30pm-3pm	£33.75m	£40.25nm
JUNIOR TENNIS (11+ years)	3pm-4.30pm	£33.75m	£40.25nm

For more information in respect of the above:
Please call King's Rochester Sports Centre

King's Rochester Sports Centre 601 Maidstone Road Rochester Kent ME1 3QJ

T: 01634 818422
E: enquiries@kingssportscentre.co.uk
www.kingssportscentre.co.uk

Discover our Haunted Tunnel on the...

TRAIN OF TERROR

PHOENIX PERFORMING ARTS

EAST KENT RAILWAY SHEPHERDSWELL

26th October
31st October
1st November

01304 832042

No Pre-booking Required

eastkentrailway.co.uk

All aboard the Fright Night Train

EVERYONE can enjoy 'spooktacular' entertainment all day at Tenterden station on the Kent & East Sussex Railway and join in the 'make and take' activities, including pumpkin-carving workshops.

Fares including train journey and all activities are priced at £45 for a family, £16 for adults and £11 for children (ages three to 15).

As the clock strikes 6.30pm on Friday, October 31, and Saturday, November 1, take a spooky journey from Tenterden to Northiam station on one of the popular Fright Night Trains.

Enjoy scary face-painting, 'make and take' activities and pumpkin-carving at Tenterden station from 4.30pm.

Every child will also receive a delicious snack box for the all-inclusive ticket price of £16. Booking is essential.

Families are encouraged to come in fancy-dress... the scarier the better!

There is free parking at Tenterden Town Station, Station Road, Tenterden TN30 6HE.

Visit www.kesr.org.uk or phone 01580 765155 to book.

Pre-book and save 10 per cent on fares, plus adults can enjoy FREE soup and a roll and each child (three to 15) will receive a free lunchbox to enjoy on the train journey!

Hallowe'en Fun and Spooky Fright Night Trains run in the Hallowe'en Fun Week from Tuesday to Friday, October 28-31.

Little horrors can enjoy castles' half-term fun

GET hands on with history this Hallowe'en at Upnor and Rochester Castles, where you and your family can enjoy a range of activities in fabulous historic settings.

On Wednesday, October 29, Upnor Castle will host two plays in one day by the User Friendly Theatre Company.

With shows at 11am and 1pm, Powder Monkeys follows a monkey called Horatio.

Plants! Plants! Plants! features a silly witch called Doris and shows at midday and 2pm. These exciting, musical, interactive plays last some 30 minutes.

Also at Upnor Castle from Monday to Thursday, October 27-31, there will be easy-to-follow craft activities with a heritage and Hallowe'en theme in the Sergeant's Mess.

On Tuesday, October 28, from 11am to 1pm, there will also be a special workshop with Chrissy to make your own spooky spider and vampire bat.

Get ready for royalty this half-term when King John and his loyal monk visit Rochester Castle.

Find them roaming the keep's corridors, praying in the chapel or walking the castle grounds, giving you lots of opportunities to speak to the King about life in Rochester 800 years ago.

Alongside our royal visitors, you can also take part in a spooky trail around the keep and have a go at family craft activities inside Tower II.

For all the activities at the castles there is no need to book – just turn up on the day.

Normal admission charges apply to the castles, with an extra small charge applying to the trail only.

For further information, visit www.visitmedway.org/events/heritage.

Come face to face with monsters from the deep at the Blue Reef

THERE is so much to see under the sea at Blue Reef Aquarium in Hastings.

Take the ultimate undersea safari and enjoy incredibly close encounters with seahorses, native sharks, giant octopus and hundreds of amazing aquatic creatures.

More than 40 naturally-themed stunning displays take you on a fantastic journey from local waters to exotic seas.

Come face to face with fascinating frogs and adorable baby rays and meet the terribly toxic lionfish.

At the aquarium's heart is the giant Ocean Reef, where an underwater tunnel offers breathtaking views of beautiful corals, shoals of colourful fish and a king of ocean predators – our black-tip reef shark.

Explore our Jungle Discovery zone, housing exotic snakes, curious bearded dragons and our striking iguana. Face your fears and get hands on with our reptiles during daily animal encounters.

With talks going on throughout the day, there's so much to enjoy.

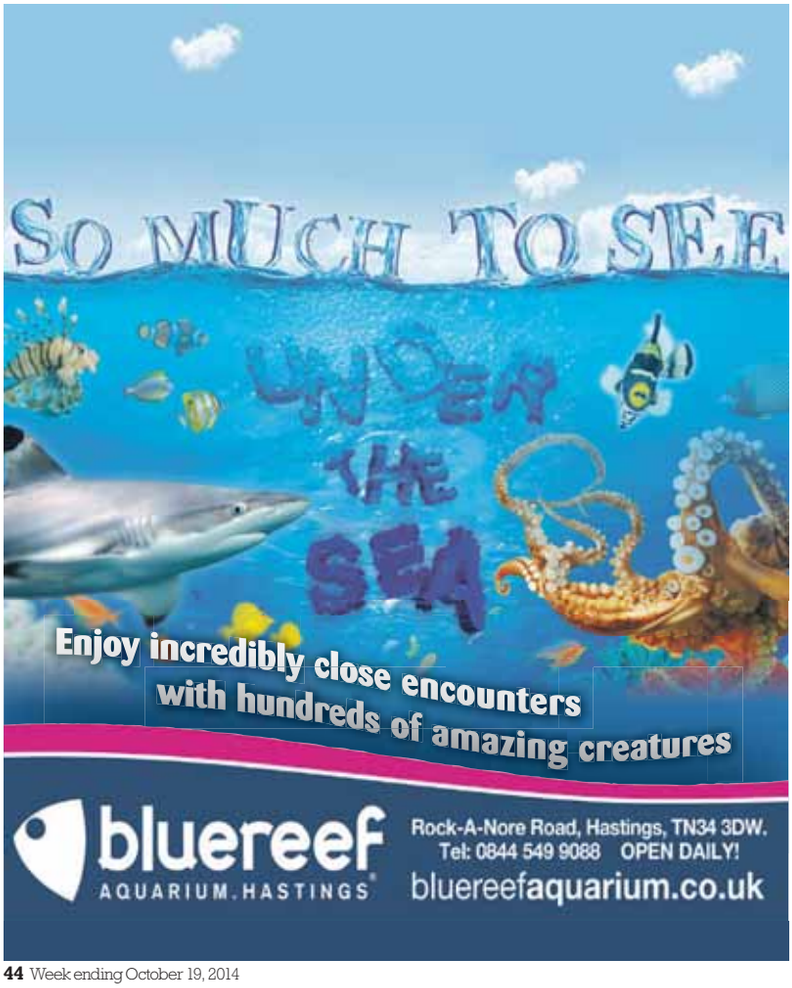
Plus your ticket is an all-day pass – so you can come in and out as many times as you like!

After your visit, why not grab a bite to eat in our Blue Reef Café, offering everything from hot food and drinks to ice-creams?

Enjoy a delicious under-the-sea children's healthy lunchbox in a fun-filled setting.

Looking for somewhere to host your child's party? We offer a great range of themed parties, all including a guided tour with one of our experienced aquarists, followed by a birthday tea in the café.

Visit us today for an experience to remember.



Farm park ready to come alive with its annual bonfire and firework spectacular

KENT Life Heritage Farm Park, near Maidstone, will be marking the start of its winter festivities on Saturday, November 8, with its amazing annual Bonfire and Firework Spectacular.

The award-winning attraction will be open from 3pm, so there's plenty of time to explore all that it has to offer in the run-up to the evening's celebrations.

Visitors can wander through the period buildings in the Vintage Village and children can enjoy the indoor and outdoor play areas and even meet some farmyard friends in Cuddle Corner.

Then at 7pm a roaring bonfire will be lit by fire-breathers as visitors join in with the countdown to a spectacular firework display at 7.45pm, all set to a themed soundtrack.

There will be plenty of entertainment for all ages, including face-painting, water-zorbing, children's fairground rides, glow-sticks galore, a licensed bar and music provided by the team at Hospital Radio Maidstone.

The attraction will stay open until 9pm, so visitors can stop off at the village hall bar or Dotty's Tea Room for a luxurious hot chocolate (or two!) after the fireworks.

Kent Life is in Lock Lane, Maidstone, near the M20 junction 6. It is the county's premier rural heritage experience, with 28 acres of fun from hands-on activities for children to age-old farming traditions.

Ticket prices: adults £11; concessions £10; children (aged three to 15) £9; under-threes FREE. Book online before Friday, October 31, to save 15 per cent.

To book tickets or for more information, visit www.kentlife.org.uk or phone 01622 763936.

Ghostly goings-on a treat for little ones

LITTLE monsters can look forward to a 'spooktacular' Hallowe'en at Kent Life Heritage Farm Park this October half-term. The award-winning attraction near Maidstone will entertain visitors with a host of ghostly goings-on from Saturday, October 25, to Sunday, November 2.

Brave the snakes, spiders and scorpions in Creepy Cuddle Corner or take the plunge with slimy zorbing. Test your artistic skills with daily pumpkin-carving and ghoulish fancy-dress competitions, take a terrifying tractor ride, or – if you dare – join one of the many scary characters for a ghost story.

Kent Life is also a fun and safe place for kids to go trick-or-treating. So come and knock on the doors of our frightening farmhouses and historic homes to see who lurks behind them!

Kent Life is a great all-weather attraction for visitors of all ages. Kids can go wild in the outdoor adventure play area or soft indoor play barn, or visit the resident alpacas, sheep, pigs, goats and horses.

Visitors can also explore the beautiful gardens, the orchard and one of the last hand-picked hop gardens in the country; ramble along the wildlife discovery trail and see the last working coal-fired oast house in Britain.

For details, visit www.kentlife.org.uk or phone 01622 763936. Admission: adults: £9.25; concessions £8.25; children (aged three to 15) £7.25; under-threes FREE. Open 10am to 5pm.

HERITAGE FARM PARK
Kent Life

Spook-tacular Half Term Fun!
25 October – 2 November
from 10am - 5pm

General admission prices
Adults £9.25
Children (aged 3-15) £7.25
Concessions £8.25
Kent Life members FREE

- Brave our creepy cuddle corner
- Try slimy water zorbing
- Enjoy safe trick or treating
- Have a go at pumpkin carving
- Daily fancy dress competitions

Kent Life, Lock Lane,
Maidstone,
Kent ME14 3AU.
Junction 6 of the M20.
T: 01622 763936

Bonfire & Firework Spectacular!
Saturday 8 November
From 3pm

- Adults £11
- Concessions £10
- Children £9
- Members and pre-booking discounts available online

- Grand roaring bonfire
- Fire performances
- Glow sticks galore!
- Spectacular firework display

Kent Life
For more details and to book visit
www.kentlife.org.uk

Warming to Bath's grand designs

TRAVEL REVIEW: Bath

by Nilima Marshall

IN A year that celebrates the 300th anniversary of an era that was responsible for some of the UK's most elegant architecture, set amid high society, it seems only setting to take a visit to Bath and examine its links with the Georgian period.

We have checked into Villa Magdala, a beautiful Victorian house not far from the town centre that's been converted into a contemporary but cosy B&B with 23 stylish and tastefully-decorated rooms.

To begin our exploration of 18th-century Bath, we head over to the Royal Crescent, a row of 30 terraced houses, including a five-star hotel and museum, which is often used as a location for films and TV shows.

We arrive to find it bustling with tourists admiring the mighty Georgian architecture that stands out among the lush green lawns.

The crescent-shape theme also continues at the Circus, which, like the Royal Crescent, was designed by Georgian architects John Wood the Younger and his father John Wood the Elder. Apparently, the architects drew inspiration for the ring of town houses from the Colosseum in Rome.

Around the corner from the Circus is the Jane Austen Centre, where I learn more about the life and family of the famous 18th-century novelist.

All the staff at the centre (a Regency townhouse that has been repurposed) are appropriately dressed in historical costumes and I feel like I've entered into a period drama.

The centre also has a range of Regency-style dresses for tourists to try on, similar to what Austen would have worn when she went out with her sister Cassandra to visit the dressmaker, or call on friends.

I find myself interested in Georgian fashion, so we head over to the Fashion Museum nearby to find out more.

At the entrance, we come across costumes that Lady Mary, Matthew Crawley and Lord Grantham were seen wearing on ITV's hit drama Downton Abbey.

The museum also has a huge variety of Georgian clothing worn by the fashionable society of that time.

We admire the dramatic, embellished ladies' gowns and the fitted embroidered waistcoats worn by style-conscious gentlemen.

Just like the architecture from that era, the Georgians also seemed to have left a lasting impact on the British fashion industry. Designer Vivienne Westwood took inspiration from the Regency era to create her Les Femmes collection S/S back in 1996. Her famous dramatic evening dress with oversized black bows is proudly displayed at the museum.

It's likely many high-society types throughout history would have come to Bath to bathe in its spa water. We decide to follow suit by heading over to the Thermae Bath Spa the following day. This modern-day public bath has a range of treatments on offer, but we opt for a two-hour relaxing bath session.

I feel my troubles melt away as I soak into a jacuzzi in the open-air roof-top pool as we take in clear views of the city.

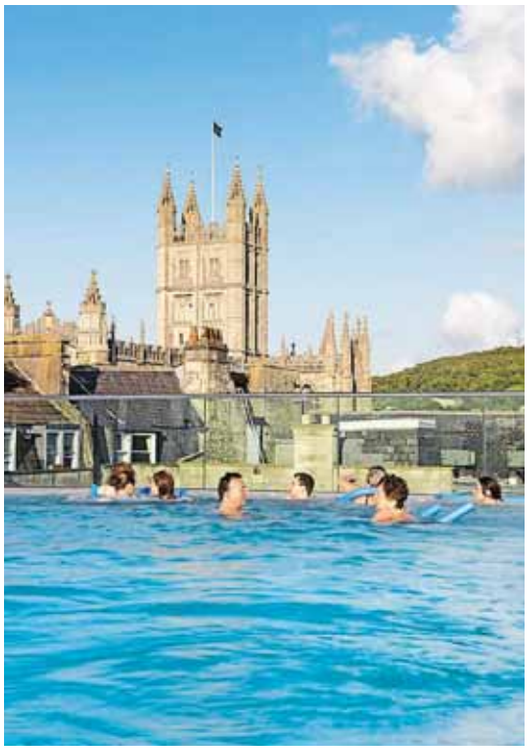
We also try out the refreshing Minerva bath and complete our full session of relaxation in the fragranced steam rooms.

Rejuvenated, we stop at Roman Bath Kitchen (another Georgian townhouse that's been transformed into a contemporary restaurant) for lunch.

Following our food extravaganza, we head over to explore the Roman Baths. One of the busiest places in the city, the Roman Baths receive more than a million visitors a year.

Much of the original bath house that was built by the Romans does not exist today, but the main spring is now housed in buildings designed and restored by John Wood the Elder and his son.

Bath will leave you with plenty of wonderful weekend memories.



STANDING THE TEST OF TIME: The wonderful architecture of the city is a primary factor in its enduring appeal

TRAVEL FACTS

NILIMA Marshall was a guest of Visit Bath. To find out more about the 300th anniversary of the Georgians, and for information on attractions and events happening in Bath, visit www.visitbath.co.uk or phone 0906 711 2000.

Doubles at Villa Magdala (www.villamagdala.co.uk) start from £135, B&B.

Travel to Bath by train with First Great Western (www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk).

Film Reviews by Damon Smith

THE MAZE RUNNER
(12A, 113 mins) Fantasy/Action/Thriller
Release: Now

BASED on the best-selling novel by James Dashner, the Maze Runner is a testosterone-fuelled survival thriller cast from the same robust mould as The Hunger Games and Divergent.

Like those dystopian nightmares, Wes Ball's film centres on naive characters teetering on the cusp of adulthood who are forced to make stark choices between life and death to secure freedom.

Only here, adolescent males are trapped in the moral mire and forced to establish a microcosm of self-governing society à la Lord Of The Flies in which the strongest take charge and the meek keep their heads down.

While The Hunger Games and Divergent expended valuable time establishing character back stories and motivations, this opening salvo of The Maze Runner employs a nifty cheat: amnesia.

All the protagonists are stripped bare of memories and identity, emerging from the darkness of a lift shaft into an enclosed green space before facing a daily struggle just to survive.

Director Ball doesn't succumb to squeamishness or sentimentality: death is quick and gruesome.

Rating: 7/10

ANNABELLE (15, 99 mins) Horror/Thriller/Romance
Release date: Now

ACCORDING to the opening credits of Annabelle, dolls have frequently been used as conduits of evil.

Modern film-makers have had great fun transforming inanimate figures into demonic vessels.

This prequel to the 2013 supernatural horror The Conjuring fleshes out the blood-soaked history of a garish figurine called Annabelle, which sent chills down the spine in the first film and remains under lock and key in the home of real-life paranormal investigators Ed and Lorraine Warren.

Annabelle appropriates elements of Rosemary's Baby for an increasingly silly tale of demonic possession and maternal sacrifice.

Director Leonetti achieves a couple of decent scares, but when it comes to burrowing deep beneath our skin both he and scriptwriter Gary Dauberman fall short.

Visual effects are sparing, which is more than can be said of Joseph Bishara's deafening orchestral heavy that turns up the volume to 11.

Rating: 5/10

THE REWRITE
(12A, 107 mins) Comedy/Romance
Release date: Now

TWENTY years ago, Hugh Grant donned his crown as floppy-haired prince regent of the romantic comedy in Four Weddings And A Funeral, winning a Bafta and Golden Globe for his efforts.

Notting Hill, About A Boy, Two Weeks Notice and Love Actually and a recurring role as a bounder in the Bridget Jones films have enforced his screen image as the bumbling bachelor who inadvertently insults the girl but still wins her heart.

The Rewrite, which reunites Grant with director Marc Lawrence for the fourth time, won't alter that perception.

Light, frothy and utterly forgettable, this flimsy tale of second-chance love and self-acceptance plays to the leading man's strengths, endearing us to his morally-flawed character despite a propensity for the occasional fib and social faux pas.

Grant could deliver this performance in his sleep, so it's fortunate he's nuzzled by a solid supporting cast including Marisa Tomei as his potential love interest and the always glorious Allison Janney as a humourless Jane Austen scholar who won't tolerate unethical behaviour among her faculty colleagues.

Rating: 5/10

Hugh sees food in a completely new light

By Keeley Bolger
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A FEW years ago, Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall was startled to learn that he had high cholesterol.

A lover of home-grown veg, who has always "eaten salads and fruit", the 49-year-old admits that his GP's diagnosis took him by surprise.

"I thought I was basically very healthy," says Fearnley-Whittingstall, who lives in Devon with his wife Marie and their four children.

"I felt more or less pretty good most of the time, but then I stopped and thought 'Well, actually, you do slap the butter on a bit too much on your morning toast, and if the cheese is out at the end of a meal and you've got a glass of wine on the go, you do go back there for a bit more'."

Although both toast and cheese are admittedly "pleasant", the TV chef and food writer has been conscientiously shifting towards recipes that don't rely on wheat and dairy, writing up his findings in his new book, River Cottage Light & Easy.

Emphasising foods that are "perhaps a little bit better for you", Fearnley-Whittingstall, who went vegetarian while he wrote his landmark River Cottage Veg book, is a convert to his own method.

Best of all, his cholesterol is now in the normal range. And despite being a self-confessed "toast muncher", he has enjoyed finding new ways of cooking.

These days, he eats dairy and wheat but doesn't rely on them as "go to" ingredients. Though he does make some exceptions...

"When my wife has made a fantastic sourdough loaf, or I go round to some friends and they've baked a lovely cake, that's when I'm going to go 'Of course I'm going to have some of that'," says the foodie, known for his campaigning Channel 4 food programmes Hugh's Fish Fight and Hugh's Chicken Run.

At home, both he and his wife share the dinner duties, but when Marie's at the cooking coalface Fearnley-Whittingstall knows to make himself scarce.

"If my wife's cooking, it's probably best to let her get on with it, because I do have a terrible tendency to butt in and interfere," he admits, grinning.

"Even if I'm looking at her while she's cooking, she can find that a bit annoying, so I'll go and do some gardening."

The family are often treated to home-cooked meals cooked by the eldest children, too, something that clearly fills the chef with pride.

"I've got much better at making a bit of room, not just for my wife but for my elder kids Chloe, who's 18, and Oscar, who's 15," explains the food writer.

"They're both keen cooks and are more than capable of putting together a family meal. So sometimes we can both take an evening off, relax in the garden and take the dog for a walk, and come back and find a pretty delicious supper on the table."

The only downfall is that the children sometimes "suggest we do the clearing up" afterwards, he adds, laughing. But donning the marigolds is a small price to pay for getting his kids interested in cooking.

"I do think that all kids have a natural curiosity about food and a natural inclination to get involved in the kitchen," he says.

He concedes that involving the kids isn't "easy for everyone", especially with time and space constraints, but adds: "If you nurture that curiosity and give a little bit of independence in the kitchen, you do them the most fantastic life service."

Freddy, 11, and four-year-old Louisa are too young to be whipping up meals like their older siblings, but Fearnley-Whittingstall, who also cooked from a young age, is keen that "whatever trials and tribulations lie ahead", all his children leave home knowing how to cook for themselves.

"It's not just about your health," he says. "It's about your well-being and sense of self respect. I think that counts for a huge amount... It's [that sense of] 'I can cook for myself, I can look after myself'."

TASTE SENSATION: Hugh Fearnley-Whittingstall was shocked by his GP

feedback

your **say...**

Send us your views.
Write to: Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford, TN23 1PP
Email: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Twitter: @kosmedia

Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

An accident just waiting to happen

I AM writing regarding a recent article about heavy traffic use on roads not built for such vehicles.

A major concern of mine and of many others is Shottendane Road, Margate, between Twenties Cottages and the top of Garlinge High Street.

If this road were to be inspected/monitored by the powers that be, it would soon become obvious that this is a 'rat run' not only for cars at high speed but for very big lorries, presumably making their way to either Margate or Westwood Cross.

Some years ago the railway bridge on Canterbury Road at Westbrook was under a construction upgrade and traffic was diverted via the unsuitable width of Shottendane Road.

When the bridge was eventually reopened, it seems that heavy vehicle traffic continued to use Shottendane Road.

We have speculated that sat nav may be directing unsuitable heavy vehicle traffic down this road.

On this stretch of road there is an establishment with stables where the only way out for riders is to negotiate this dangerous road. I can remember several near-misses for horse and rider and one time a horse actually being put down due to injuries sustained.

This is not a good situation for the livery yard trying to attract clients.

Only the very experienced rider would consider it. Also on this stretch is Hengrove Farm with large machinery leaving and entering the farm all year round.

The width of this road is just 15ft. I don't know the legalities of the situation, but surely it is not acceptable to have such traffic on such a narrow road?

It is only a matter of time before there is a really serious accident on this stretch that could have been avoided.

Pauline Hedger, Margate

Pounds before the needs of patients

ORDINARY hard-working GPs in Kent are paid, on average, £73.56 to look after a patient for a year.

Try getting 10 minutes with a doctor in the US for that.

This government, however, is so keen to sell off the NHS to the private sector that it has put a Dymchurch practice out to tender at £100 per patient – in other words 35 per cent extra.

Of course, not all this will go to patient care – some has to reward shareholders.

If they don't think they can get serious bidders for less than £100 per patient, how do they expect ordinary GPs dedicated to the NHS to provide a good-quality service for so much less?

This insult is compounded by the Government already cutting £1 billion from the primary care budget.

When asked whether they intend to pay other GPs the same, which would be a more realistic sum for providing a quality service, you can imagine the response from NHS England.

This is happening across the country and the public must wake up to what is happening to the NHS before it no longer exists.

Dr Paul J Hobday, prospective parliamentary candidate for Maidstone and The Weald

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Going Dutch could answer flooding woe

FOR as long as I can remember, both Yalding and the centre of Maidstone have been flooded regularly.

Yalding is on a flood plain of the Medway, and the Medway itself is really quite small and just cannot take the quantities of water draining into it when heavy rains occur. Nothing new here.

The solution will be based on the following:

1. Increase the depth and width of the Medway channel downriver past Wouldham.
2. Lower the level of the river above Allington as soon as heavy rains are forecast. This will mean thinking about the boats on the various moorings and how to keep them safe. Perhaps by digging out lagoons in the banks to create areas away from the river flow as seen in Allington Marina.
3. Dig a rather large hole below Yalding that is kept empty until the Medway threatens flooding and then allow the water to flow into this pit.
4. Build a large underground pipe, 12 feet in diameter, into which water is pumped from the river to bypass the river and take the water to Wouldham.
5. Bring in Dutch engineers to solve the problem. Some 30 per cent of houses in The Netherlands are below the level of the North Sea and they do not flood. The Dutch have knowledge and understanding of water flows that the tadpole-collectors at the Environment Agency just do not have.

The current solution, based on a year's work, is to tell the house-owners more quickly when their houses are going to flood.

These houses should not have been built on this flood plain in the first place until the water levels were made safe.

Mike Miles, by email

Boris proves he's out of touch, again

I'M not sure what happens in Boris Johnson's private life, but he does appear to have an intimate knowledge of the sex life of a vacuum cleaner (KoS, last week).

He also seems to think Ukip supporters are born-again members of his 'old boys' club'.

Not so here in Kent.

The first roots of what is now Great Britain started 2,000 years ago when the Roman gateway to Britain was Richborough in east Kent.

St Augustine, Hengist and Horsa and William the Norman (he never conquered Kent) followed, as would wannabes Napoleon and Hitler.

Out of Kent came England, leading to the Empire, now the Commonwealth.

Don't underestimate east Kent, Boris.

Nigel Farage may have historically chosen wisely in starting his People's Army's march on Parliament in Kent. It has an excellent historical record. Stick to buffoonery and vacuum cleaners, Mr Johnson.

David Steed, Manston

Check your facts ...and your speed

I READ Gerry Cross's letter with interest (KoS, last week) as he is probably referring to some of my letters that have been published.

Firstly, he states that drivers like me "believe the rights of motorist should trump all others".

This is a total fallacy for it was the last Labour government that laid down a fixed road-user hierarchy list in which the private car-driver came last, and this list is fully supported by Conservative transport policies.

I would suggest that when out driving you check the speed limit and the speeds people actually are driving at (despite the threat of prosecution) to see what you call the "quiet majority" really think.

As for "keep your opinions to yourself", this is called free speech, something that is becoming gradually eradicated with more controls of what can, or cannot, be said.

Terry Hudson, Whitstable

Sort it out, Gills

GILLINGHAM'S footballers are in a poor run of form and the spectre of relegation is very much present.

Such an event would bring to a halt any momentum gathered at the club. It really must not happen.

Mike Jervis, Chatham

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles which tie in with our parent company Archant's overall mission statement.

Archant's mission statement is: "We bring together motivated buyers and sellers through the creation of unique and compelling content and community expertise." This is summed up in the strapline 'Inspiring Communities'.

The way KoS will create our unique and compelling content is to follow these 10 principles:

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

images of kent

Botany Bay
by **Kim Cheung from Margate**

If your picture is printed on this page you will receive an any-duration **Dover-Calais return crossing for a car and up to five passengers**, **valid for a year**, courtesy of...

MYFERRYLINK
Owned and run by the crew

To see your photograph printed, email **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk**, or post it to **Archant KOS Media**, **Images of Kent**, **Kent House, 81 Station Road, Ashford, TN23 1PP**. Be sure to include your name, address and a contact telephone number. Unfortunately we cannot return any prints, and please do not send negatives. Note: all digital images must be no less than 200dpi.

GLOVE WORK: Be ready to plant those bulbs with a coordinated approach

Diarmuid digs the dirt on getting your garden into shape

AFTER a glorious summer at home pottering around his garden, green-fingered TV presenter Diarmuid Gavin is now preparing his beds for the cooler months.

"Things in my own garden are beginning to die back," he explains. "I have some wisterias I've been training up a cast-iron verandah and underneath that I will be ripping out some perennials that haven't been happy in my garden, like a trochodendron that has looked sickly and has black spots under the leaf."

He swears by the following tips for renewal and regeneration that will help your garden withstand the cooler months and ensure it is in good condition for the year ahead.

THE LAWN

"It's time to get ready for renewal and the first thing to look at is the lawn, which has probably been battered by kids running all over it in the summer holidays.

"A really good maintenance session, scarifying, aerating and topping up the roots of the grass plants with some autumn fertiliser will make a massive difference," he says. "Really getting stuck in with a spring tine rake to remove all the thatch is an incredibly satisfying job.

"For a couple of weeks, the lawn will look like you've demolished it, but later on it will improve its condition. It's all about toughening it up to get it ready for winter. Spiking it and aerating it really allows the oxygen to get right down to the roots but also releases some of the other bad gases that may have built up. Be cruel to be kind."

PROLONG THE SEASON

Continue to deadhead anything that's still in flower, but also visit your local garden centre to see what's coming into flower.

"Some of the autumn sedums are fantastic and encourage butterflies, so you could drop in some spot colour before the frost comes. Dahlias such as Bishop of Llandaff with bright flowers and deep purple foliage look fantastic now, so put them in pots in the border.

"Some of the Japanese anemones also look fantastic and there's plenty of scope for using spot colour in the garden. You don't have to give up just yet. Even some of the exotic-looking cannas, such as Canna Tropicanna, are looking good now."

CLEAR UP LEAVES

You'll have to rake up fallen leaves or they will suffocate any plant life underneath them and provide shelter for pests. If you have lots of leaves and

TOP OF THE RANGE, AMAZING QUALITY KITCHENS, BATHROOMS & BEDROOMS AT EXCELLENT VALUE FOR MONEY PRICES.

Swans have been supplying top-quality kitchens and bathrooms at best-value prices to customers throughout the south of England for 30 years. We specialise in top-of-the-range German kitchen units and worktops, plus appliances.

Swans will create the kitchen of your dreams, tailored to your personal needs but at superstore prices.

You'll be amazed at our amazing quality and service and value-for-money prices…

kitchens

Modern, country or classic…whatever your preference in kitchens you will find the perfect kitchen for your home. From a small modern galley to a large traditional farm house kitchen, you will find the ideal kitchen for your home in Swan's kitchen collection.

bathrooms

There's up to 25% off our preferred brands including Kudos, Aqualisa, Montrose and Claygate. Visit our showroom or online to view the ranges available

bedrooms

Quality is paramount to our success. Each piece of Daval furniture fitted by us makes an enviable statement in any home, blending seamlessly into your living space. Have your furniture your way!.

Swans
Kitchens, Bathrooms & Bedrooms

01474 569070 | www.swanskitchens-bathrooms.co.uk | 80 Parrock Road, Gravesend, Kent DA12 1QF

SHINING LIGHT: Diarmuid Gavin in his Silver Gilt Medal-winning garden at the Chelsea Flower Show (left); it's a good time to deadhead flowers (right)

enough space, make leaf mould by putting your leaves into dustbin liners with air holes in them and leave them to rot down to make a great mulch. It does, however, take a year or so for the leaves to break down sufficiently.

HERBACEOUS PERENNIALS

Tidy up herbaceous perennials that are flopping or have developed rust.

In a month's time, you can start to lift and divide perennials to renew their vigour and produce new plants. Out of one clump, you may get seven or eight smaller ones. Replant them, digging organic matter into the soil at the same time and they should give you a good show next year.

CHECK YOUR SOIL

Autumn is a good time to check to see how your soil is doing. Prepare to do a big mulch and buy in some organic material.

"Planning is key," he adds. "If the garden has produced the goods for you this year – and for most people it's been a really bountiful year – you want to condition the soil. See what will need to be mulched and enriched and order your manure to be delivered, before everyone else does."

CONSIDER FENCING

If your fencing has fallen down or broken, consider planting a hedge to replace it in the autumn.

"I'm planning to take out fencing panels and plant beech or a mixture of beech and holly hedges in a client's garden in Sheffield.

"Get rid of non-descript shrubs like forsythias and if you want a hedge prepare the soil now.

"Autumn and winter is a great time for this because you're not battling against slugs, the lawn isn't growing at the rate it was and you have time to invest in one or two big projects."

PLANT BULBS

Bulbs have been in garden centres for the last eight weeks and now it's worth having a coordinated approach to this, considering what you want to achieve, whether it's bulbs in pots around the front door, or in drifts in a lawn – you can coordinate that with your lawn aeration – or in through the beds and borders.

"There's no point in buying a dozen daffodils and planting them in a row because they'll look terrible. You have to plan and invest. Maybe buy a 5kg bag of daffodils and plant them in drifts rather than placing them one by one.

"Throw them on the ground and see where they land, which will give you the most naturalistic planting. Plant them at least twice their depth and give them a bit of feed if you want them to be vigorous.

"The secret is, don't skimp on bulbs.

"The only place you can skimp is if you're just putting them in pots."

Exceptional quality,made to measure furniture for bedrooms,studies,lounges and sliding wardrobes extensive range of,modern design and traditional elegance.
AWARD WINNING FAMILY RUN BUSINESS
HOME VISITS AND FREE QUOTATIONS
Showroom Opens Mon-Fri 8am-4pm,sat10am-4pm.
BEDROOM FLAIR LTD
www.bedroomflair.co.uk 01622 729855
169 Tonbridge Road, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8NA
Find us on Facebook

Orchard Fencing ltd

Offering an extensive range of fencing & materials for Commercial, Domestic, Industrial & Agricultural service

Huge Stock - Low Prices

Call us today for a competitive price!

Catford
020 8698 4064
Ardoch Road,
Catford,
London
SE6 1SZ

Erith 01322 347799
Landau Way,
Darent Park
Industrial Estate,
Wallhouse Road,
Erith, Kent DA8 2LF

Welling
020 88556961
Stephenson Close,
Welling,
Kent DA16 3AT

info@orchardfencing.co.uk | www.orchardfencing.co.uk

Improve, don't move

By Julia Gray
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IF YOU'VE outgrown your home and you can make it bigger by building an extension or converting the loft, cellar or garage, doing the work is often more economical than moving.

It also gives you an opportunity to create space tailored exactly to your needs.

That said, be careful not to get carried away and enlarge your home in the wrong way. For example, if you convert the loft into an extra bedroom or bedrooms and there isn't enough living space downstairs for the total number of bedrooms, you'll have made the house too top-heavy.

It's often said that the rooms that most sell homes are the kitchen and bathroom because replacing them is expensive and disruptive so buyers don't want to do it themselves.

Swapping a dated kitchen or bathroom for a modern one will make a big difference to your everyday life, too, and you don't need a second mortgage to pay for it.

A good way to get a bargain kitchen is to buy inexpensive units and even cupboard doors, then spend more on the worktops – oak-block ones are stunning but needn't be costly if you buy them online – and a statement tap and/or sink.

Try a local DIY store for reasonable takeaway units – an IT Kitchens 1,000mm White Base Carcass is just £38 at B&Q, for example.

Takeaway units are ideal if you're in a hurry or not sure about the layout because if you find you need one size instead of another you can simply go to the store and get it.

DIY stores are also a source of reasonable bathrooms – budget buys can be dressed up with nice tiles and taps – Mira Showers has a new range of beautifully-designed and engineered bathroom taps (see www.mirashowers-store.co.uk).

Adding bathrooms, especially an en-suite, is a great way to up-value and make your home life easier, especially if there are too many people using the family bathroom.

This is when an en-suite for the main bedroom is invaluable. People sometimes think that having as many bedrooms as possible adds value, but it's usually more valuable to have enough bathrooms for the number of bedrooms.

It's also useful to have a bathroom on every floor where there are bedrooms. Loft-conversion bedrooms with a bathroom or shower room are usually more valuable and useful than those without.

In family homes, a downstairs toilet is a must, too, even if you have to squeeze it into a small space, such as the under-stairs cupboard.

Another must for families these days is open-plan living space. Where once separate dining rooms and kitchens were popular, now the trend is for open-plan kitchen-diners/family rooms where the whole family can be together.

However, totally open-plan space isn't necessarily the best way to add value or live day to day.

Having a more formal sitting room, as well as a more casual room, works well for many families, so do get out your sledgehammer... but don't go mad with it.

STONECRAFT PAVING CENTRE
"Beautiful Gardens Set in Stone"

OFFER
Natural Indian Stone
£16.25 +vat
per square metre
Fencing IN STOCK
20% off OUR patio packs
The Largest Indoor Showroom in Kent!
Buy Direct from the manufacturer
Most of our centres have beautiful landscaped gardens designed to inspire you. Stonecraft Paving can offer you everything you need to create your ideal patio or driveway. We offer quality products with huge savings. Visit our centres and compare our prices with other leading outlets.
Medway City Estate, Whitewall Road, Strood, Kent ME2 4EW
Tel: 01634 724667 Fax: 01634 729907 www.stonecraftpaving.co.uk

CARPET MILLS MAIDSTONE
Huge Choice - Massive Savings
Visit us at our 6000sq.ft Showroom in Maidstone, we hold over 5000sq.m of flooring including carpet, vinyl flooring, laminates, and rugs or shop from the comfort of your own home, with our free expert measuring and advice service, we can bring a wide selection of samples and give you a no obligation quote on the spot.

The Complete Flooring Specialists
We are an independent family run business in Hart Street Maidstone, Established for 23 years. We are always here to offer sound advice and pride ourselves on our customer care, from large orders through to individual requests, we do our utmost to ensure maximum satisfaction. We look forward to welcoming you into our store.

Bed Showroom
Divans, Pine, Metal and leather bedsteads
Mattresses and Headboards

Unit E, Hart Street, Maidstone, Kent ME16 8RF
Call today 01622 662770
www.carpetmillsmaidstone.co.uk
sales@carpetmillsmaidstone.co.uk
CARPET MILLS MAIDSTONE

EYE ON THE JOB: Building a storage cupboard in the kitchen is a good way of adding value to this important room

Are you sitting comfortably? Then you've made the perfect choice

YOU just know when you've found 'the one'. Supportive, and always there for you when you need comfort, a snuggle or just to relax, writes ***Gabrielle Fagan***.

I'm not talking about a partner but the sometimes more tricky matter of getting the right seating partner: a sofa. Bear in mind you'll probably live with it for 10 years or more – a pretty long-lasting relationship – and it becomes even more apparent how key that choice is.

But with so much to consider, from size (which, in this case, does matter) through to shape and colour, never mind sorting through a seemingly endless array of ranges, finding the perfect match for you and your home can be daunting.

"People often go to enormous lengths choosing a sofa, not just because this is a costly item but also because it's the most important piece of furniture in a living room. It can literally make or break the look of a setting," says Malcolm Walker, buying director at Furniture Village.

"We find people may even delay long getting rid of an old sofa because it holds memories. It's understandable there's an emotional attachment to something on which we've spent so much time."

Fabrics should go through a rub test during manufacture, so look for those with a rub count of more than 20,000 for durability. Choose fabrics appropriate to your lifestyle – those with pile, such as velvet or soft, aniline leathers, rarely survive the onslaught of a young family and pets without sustaining damage.

Alternatively, loose covers can be removed and washed, and choosing them in two colours or patterns means they can be switched to suit different seasons.

Mid Kent Flooring
COMMERCIAL & DOMESTIC FLOOR COVERINGS

- Carpets
- Vinyls
- Laminate
- Solid Wood
- Artificial Grass
- Karndean
- Wet Rooms
- Uplift old
- Move furniture

All work is fully guaranteed
FREE ESTIMATES

Unit 2, Mid Kent Shopping Centre, Castle Road, Allington, Maidstone, Kent, ME16 0PU
01622 761230
www.midkentflooring.co.uk

bed OFFERS GALORE

divan beds
from £199.95

SPECIAL OFFERS
4' & 4'6 (120 & 135cm) to £139.95
Mattresses from £179.95
6' (180cm) Mattresses from £289.95

Wooden Framed Beds
from £189.95

FREE
local delivery and parking
Established for 32 years
FAMILY RUN

- Pocket Sprung Beds • Divan Beds • Mattresses
- Metal Beds • Pine / Wooden Beds • Electric Beds
- Sofa Beds • Kids Beds • Special Size Beds
- Wooden Furniture • Headboards • Bed Linen

CHRIS GAMMON
bed centre

Mid Kent Shopping Centre, Castle Road, Allington, Maidstone, Kent
t: 01622 675770 | e: info@chrisgammonbedcentre.co.uk
www.chrisgammonbedcentre.co.uk

holidays

Call
01895 83 33 33
for bookings
and information

Save £200 per couple on Christmas Market River Cruises

Join us for a relaxing river cruise taking-in some of Europe's best Christmas markets. Travel by high-speed rail from London St Pancras or Ebbsfleet and enjoy full-board hospitality with free drinks on board our exclusively-chartered river cruiser. Two cruises are available with departures in November and December, 2014.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return rail travel from London St Pancras (from Ebbsfleet on request) to Brussels • 3 or 4 nights full-board on the mps Princess sharing a twin-bed outside rear cabin on Main Deck - upgrades available • Welcome cocktail on arrival • Beer, wine, choice of 2 Dutch spirits & soft drinks served at lunch & dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Morning and afternoon coffee/tea & cakes • Buffet breakfast & lunch • Dinner served at your table • Late night snacks • Captain's dinner • Entertainment • Transfers abroad

BRUGES, VALKENBURG, GHENT & BRUSSELS CHRISTMAS PARTY RIVER CRUISE

Escorted Holiday by Rail
5 days semi all inclusive
Departs 24 November, 2014

FREE DRINKS | **OVER 40s ONLY** | **PRIVATE CHARTER** | **QUOTE: PC11-4-KOS**

This relaxing river cruise takes in: Valkenburg with its unique Christmas Caves; beautiful Bruges with its wonderful festive atmosphere and markets; Hasselt, a charming Belgian town with a festive winterland; lovely Ghent, once medieval Europe's second largest city; and Brussels, the Belgian capital.

GN Voyages is exclusively chartering the popular mps Princess again with great hospitality and entertainment on board. Beer, wine by the glass, Dutch spirits and soft drinks are included at lunch and dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar. Morning and afternoon coffee and cakes and late snacks are also included.

CHRISTMAS MARKETS SPECTACULAR RIVER CRUISE - BRUGES, BRUSSELS & LILLE

Escorted Holiday by Rail
4 days semi all inclusive
Departs 1 December, 2014

FREE DRINKS | **OVER 40s ONLY** | **PRIVATE CHARTER** | **QUOTE: PC12-KOS**

This fun-packed river cruise takes in three great Christmas Markets. In Lille, Northern France, the main square is transformed into a winter wonderland with a giant Christmas ferris wheel and dozens of stalls. Bruges with its wonderful festive atmosphere and markets is just a short stroll from the ship's mooring and you'll have a full day and night to enjoy this Belgian gem. In the Belgian capital, Brussels, the Christmas Market is hailed as 'Europe's most original' by British tour operators. GN Voyages is exclusively chartering the popular mps Princess again with great hospitality and entertainment on board.

Holidays offered by
GN Holidays
& **Voyages**
Higher Denham,
Uxbridge UB9 5EL
ABTA NoY0291 • ATOL 9362
Email:
info@gnvoyages.co.uk
Web:
www.gnvoyages.co.uk
Open 9am to 5.30pm weekdays
9.30am to 12.30pm
Saturdays
Closed Bank Holiday weekends

driving

By Steve Loader
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A JOY TO BEHOLD: The Volvo V40 R-Design certainly looks good although the same powertrain is also available in a chunky Cross Country garb

Star given star power options

Volvo injects more ecopower into its slick best-selling V40 hatchback to draw company 'user-choosers' and private buyers alike, says Steve Loader

IT'S every carmaker's dream: making a good car even better.

So it is with new powertrain options for the Volvo V40, the Swedish premium marque's current star car, though the eagerly-awaited all-new XC90 SUV arrives soon.

The racy V40 – a family hatchback that makes the VW Golf look dull as dishwater – is now available with new Drive-E engines and gearboxes delivering driver appeal, plus greater economy and lower emissions than before.

It's a formula that has already enabled Volvo to make great inroads into the company-car market but is highlighted now by the powerful 190bhp D4 Drive-E diesel/manual combo available on the V40 (from £24,570).

This offers 99g/km CO_2 and an official combined 74.3mpg consumption yet is good for 0-62mph in just 7.4 seconds.

Ally this with a skilled blend of decent ride and surefooted handling and you have a car that ticks many boxes and looks good, too, particularly in sporty R-Design trim, though the same powertrain is also available in chunky, higher-riding Cross Country garb:104g/km and 70.6mpg combined, with acceleration slightly compromised at 7.7 seconds.

I drove both trims and came down firmly for the R-Design on looks, driveability and cost – the country-set image of the Cross Country adds about £550.

Both trims are also available with Volvo's new highly-flexible eight-speed Geartronic automatic gearbox. For those who often get stuck in commuter traffic but like to push on when they can, this is a classy yet eco-friendly option: 109g/km and 67.3mpg combined for R-Design.

For more fun, though, Volvo has added a sporty Drive-E V40 halo option: the 245bhp petrol T5 (0-62mph in 6.3 seconds) with the eight-speeder auto as standard. It won't be a big seller but does have surprisingly good eco credentials: 137g/km CO_2 emissions and 47.9mpg combined.

PACKED: Volvo has also produced a high-riding Cross Country version

KEA

» Read more of Steve's motoring reviews in… KENT LIFE

» For more cars visit drive24.co.uk
Powered by MOTORS Search Smart. Buy Right .co.uk

HYTHE GARAGE

WINTER SERVICING

MAKE SURE YOU ARE SAFE AND PREPARED

MOT'S • SERVICE
REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE
TYRES • FERODO APPROVED BRAKE
SPECIALISTS • FAULT DIAGNOSIS
• COMPUTER DIAGNOSTICS
FOR MANY MAKES
VEHICLE RECOVERY

ALL your vehicle needs...

The Old Fire Station, Portland Road, Hythe, Kent CT21 6EG
01303 268100

Don't get Caught Out this Winter

Get your vehicle ready for winter with

HAZEL MOTORS

All Repairs Undertaken
Servicing & Diagnostic Testing
Welding & Exhausts
Air Conditioning Servicing
Tyre Fitting Centre

Get your vehicle ready for winter:
Brakes, Tyres, Servicing, Repairs
We can help winter proof your car

the Good Garage Scheme

www.hazelmotors.co.uk
01634 406664
271-287 DALE STREET, CHATHAM ME4 6QR

FREE HALLOWEEN PET PHOTOSHOOT*

WHEN YOU BUY A NEW TOYOTA THIS WEEKEND.

TOYOTA
ALWAYS A BETTER WAY

***or anything you like for £500.**
Save £500 when you buy a new Toyota between 18th - 19th October† at Motorline

Visit us this weekend at:

Motorline Ashford
The Crescent
Orbital Park
TN24 0SN
Tel: 0844 822 7122

Motorline Canterbury
Broad Oak Road
Canterbury
CT2 7RB
Tel: 0844 822 7130

Motorline Tunbridge Wells
Dowding Way
North Farm
TN2 3UY
Tel: 0844 822 7169

motorline.toyota.co.uk

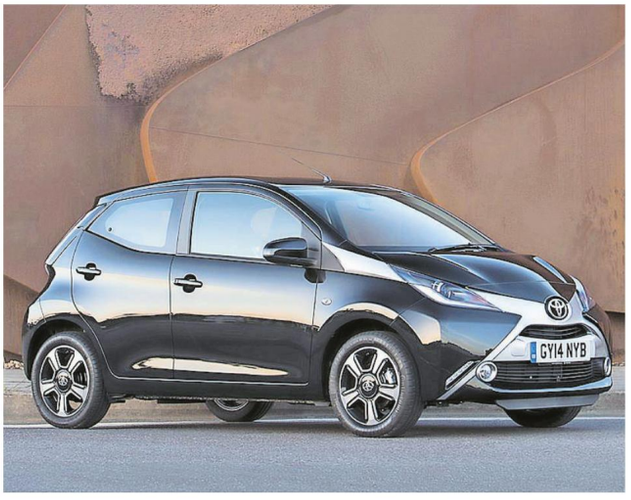
/Motorline-Group @motorlinegroup

5 year TOYOTA WARRANTY

†£500 saving available on new Toyota retail sales (excluding AYGO) when ordered between 17th - 20th October 2014. This offer can be used in conjunction with any other additional Toyota offers. Available at participating centres only. Free Halloween Pet Photoshoot is not included in this offer. 5 Year/100,000 mile manufacturer's warranty is subject to terms and conditions.

Toyota's city baby might be another clone, but it's hard to beat for funky eye-catching urban appeal, writes **Steve Loader**

Aygo... funkmaster city car that's streets ahead



HEAD-TURNER: Toyota has created a car that will attract admiring looks

IF you like wordplay, Toyota's Aygo city car will amuse you.

Pronounced 'I go', Toyota hopes it makes you think 'mobility and freedom', but it's also a simple definition of what we actually need from our vehicles.

For the Aygo (from £8,595) and other city cars are probably what carmakers would rather not make, being relatively expensive and less profitable to produce.

They also make a good fist of doing most of what bigger and far more expensive cars do and are compact and economical – a double wake-up call to increasingly hard-pressed consumers. They also look like great fun, especially in the case of the Aygo.

To keep city-car development and production costs down, most manufacturers now pool resources and clone several cars from one project.

So, for the second time around, Toyota has teamed up with Peugeot and Citroën, the Peugeot 108 and Citroen C1 being sisters to the Aygo.

But visual differences between the French pair and the Toyota are quite marked this time, highlighted by different rear window lines and the Aygo's distinctive 'X' motif across the front end and equally original rear.

Indeed, Toyota is known for designing cars that attract few admiring glances but offend nobody, but it has acted out of character and created a head-turner here, helped by umpteen customisation options and cutting-edge infotainment.

In short, the four-seat Aygo is probably the most eye-catching and funkiest of city cars, with the five-door, which commands a £400 premium, easily the best-looking and most practical of the two body options; rear-seat access for the three-door is awkward and the view out for smaller passengers is not great, even if there's plenty of room once seated.

On the face of it, there's not much to excite on the power front: the previous Aygo's 68bhp 1.0-litre three-cylinder petrol engine plus five-speed box has been retained.

On the other hand, why change a winner when it delivers a road-tax-exempt 95g/km CO_2 emissions and offers 68.9mpg?

That's an official combined cycle figure not far from the real-world economy I achieved during a week with the car despite subjecting it to crawling stop-go town traffic and a lengthy motorway cruise.

However, at this price and size there have to be compromises and the Aygo's ride quality can be fidgety, while the engine can be noisy as it wheezes its leisurely way to a claimed 0-62mph in 14.2 seconds. It is easily outperformed for composure by the rival VW Up and cloned Skoda and SEAT sisters.

Nevertheless, Toyota's five-year/100,000-mile warranty goes a long way to counter that and, for a small car, it certainly makes a big impression.

Toyota Aygo

Price:	from £8,595
Driving appeal:	★★★
Image:	★★★★★
Space:	★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
How green?:	★★★★★
Best rival:	★★ ★☐

BAILEYS CANTERBURY
Westminster Road, Canterbury CT1 1YY
0844 858 4108 | baileys-nissan.co.uk

Opening hours 9.00am-6.00pm Monday to Friday, 9.00am-5.30pm Saturday and 10.00am-4.00pm Sunday

*Requires servicing by a franchised Nissan dealer at the intervals specified by Nissan. 2 years' servicing includes labour and certain parts only. 3 years' warranty available on eligible vehicles with fewer than 75,000 miles on odometer at time of purchase, excludes normal wear and tear. Terms, conditions and exclusions apply. See nissanusedcars.co.uk for full details. Offer excludes GT-R and LCV. Participating dealers only. Finance provided by RCI Financial Services Limited, PO Box 149, Watford WD17 1FJ. Subject to status. Guarantees and indemnities may be required. You must be at least 18 and a UK resident (excluding the Isle of Man and Channel Islands). Terms and conditions apply, please visit www.nissanusedcars.co.uk for details.

Kent Invicta Chamber

The County's Premier Business Support Network

Kent Invicta Chamber is the ultimate business support network in Kent. The Chamber provides Membership services, Business Advice, International Trade services and much more

The Chamber is perfectly placed to promote, support and facilitate business across the country

WHY HAVE OVER 1200 KENT BUSINESSES JOINED KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE?

We offer your business:

Networking & Promotion	• Over 160 networking events per year - including Over 60 FREE • Opportunities to show case your products and services at our B2B Exhibitions • Free advertising in Chamber publications • Free database of over 1200 Kent companies to promote your business
International Trade	• Discounted Export documentation service • Advice and Guidance in seeking new markets
Cost Reduction	• A range of discount products and services designed to reduce your overheads and increase your bottom line
Training & Development	• Workshops, Seminars and Training Courses designed to keep you up to date, ahead of the game and better placed to drive your business forward
Business Support	• Business Advisory sessions to talk through your business proposals, aspirations and concerns in a private and confidential environment
Meeting and Conferencing facilities	• Small board rooms through to large conference rooms • Accommodating meeting ranging from 2 to 120 delegates • Ample free parking • Attractive discounts
Representation	• A voice to champion your business concerns at all levels

Make sure your business is #wellconnected by joining Kent's leading Chamber of Commerce for as little as

54p

a day

Enjoy over 30 exclusive member benefits
Keep up to date with grants, loans and funded support
Connect with expertise and talent, locally and globally

Join today!

KENT INVICTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

British Chambers of Commerce Accredited

Head Office: 01233 503838 Ashford Business Point, Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington, Ashford TN24 0LH

Maidstone Office: 01622 695544 The Gate House, Archbishop's Palace, Mill Street, Maidstone ME15 6YE

Gravesend Office: 01474 550026 The Old Town Hall, High Street, Gravesend DA11 0AZ

www.kentinvictachamber.co.uk

jobs24.co.uk
IN-PAPER • ONLINE • ON MOBILE

TO ADVERTISE:

TELEPHONE: **0845 671 4460** EMAIL: **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk** ONLINE: **www.jobs24.co.uk/kent**

Care Staff

HMT Care Ltd are dedicated to the care of people with Huntington's Disease and are looking for full and part time

Permanent Support Staff.

Qualifications are an advantage, NVQ or equivalent, but experience in residential care is essential.

Responsibilities include ensuring all aspects of residents' needs are addressed, comprising personal, nutritional, physical and emotional, social & leisure.
Staff work within guidelines and care plans.

Successful candidates will need skills that include empathy, sensitivity, patience, good listening and communication, using initiative as well as being a team member, good observation and attention to detail, being physically fit and commitment.

A competitive salary, promotion prospects and accredited specialist training is on offer.

Please apply to the Registered Manager, Rachel Shales, Monday to Friday between 10am and 4pm on 01227 373586 or email us your CV to info@hmt-care.co.uk

Commercial Kitchen Cleaners
required

- Experience essential
- Must be able to prove right to work in the UK
- Driving license required
- Must be prepared to work unsociable hours
- This is a physically demanding position
- Very good rates of pay depending upon experience
- Must be flexible in working times

Please send full CV by email to
lodgecleaning@aol.com

General Vacancies

EARN EXTRA CASH FOR CHRISTMAS

10-15 hours weekly in your local area
NO CASH OUTLAY GUARANTEED
Age 18-108
tel: BETTERWARE on 01474 813196

Looking for a local career?

Find it at jobs24.co.uk
IN-PAPER • ONLINE • ON MOBILE

ABBEY COURT SCHOOL teaches pupils with Severe, and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties between the ages of 3 and 19. The school is based on 2 sites in Rainham (Nursery and Primary), and Strood (Secondary and Further Education)

Itinery for the morning.....

- SCHOOL VIDEO
  An insight into who we are.
- ALL ABOUT US
  A tour of the school and presentation .
- DIFFERENTIATED CURRICULUM
  A presentation on how our teaching and learning is differentiated to meet the special needs of our pupils.
- WHAT NEXT?
  Questions and answers.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Disclosure Barring Service certificate.

Calling all Teachers!

Have you thought of widening your experience working with Special Educational Needs pupils?

Would you like to find out more about supply opportunities?

Why not come along to our Taster morning and discover more about working in a special school……

Thursday 6th November
10am to 1pm
Abbey Court School, Long Catlis Road, Rainham, Kent
ME8 9TX

To reserve a **free** place, telephone the school on 01634 338220, or e-mail office@abbeycourt.medway.sch.uk by Friday 31st October.

Thamesview SCHOOL

Progress Manager

37 hours per week for 39 weeks per year
Kent Salary Range 8
£23,753.00 – £27,222.00 per annum
Pro rata to £20,044.00 - £22,971.00

Number on roll: 740

Type of School: 11- 16 Mixed High School

Salary: Thamesview Qualified Teacher Scale

Closing date: 28th October, 9.00 am

Interviews: w/c 3rd November

We are seeking to appoint a passionate member of support staff who will join a team of Progress Managers to provide key administrative, welfare and progress development support for a Community Leader.

The ideal applicant…

- will relate well to students
- must have good attendance and punctuality record
- will be able to liaise and communicate effectively with outside agencies, staff and students
- will be confident to work independently and multi task in a range of areas
- will be committed to the vision of cross-subject learning
- will have a cheerful disposition, show confidence and contribute ideas to work within a team
- will demonstrate effective examples of initiatives they have developed in a school to date

The School received a very positive Ofsted Report recently and was rated 'good' in every category with some outstanding features. Thamesview is a new school build that benefits from innovative learning environments and state of the art ICT equipment.

We are committed to providing high quality learning experiences for our students and to supporting our staff through excellent CPD opportunities.

Further details and an application form can be obtained from our HR Manager on 01474 566552 ext 1120 or email k.mcgowan@thamesview.kent.sch.uk

Closing Date: 28th October 2014, 9.00am
Interviews: Week Commencing 3rd November 2014

Appointment to this post is subject to a criminal background check via the Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS).

Thamesview School operates a no smoking policy

PLEASE MENTION

This Paper

when replying to

THESE ADVERTS

Kent on Sunday

jobs24.co.uk
IN-PAPER • ONLINE • ON MOBILE

TO ADVERTISE:
TELEPHONE: **0845 671 4460**
EMAIL: **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk** ONLINE: **www.jobs24.co.uk/kent**

Be part of our successful team

Media Sales Office based Executive

Plus bonus potential

Here at Archant Kent we are looking for a Office based Media Sales Executive in Ashford to support and increase business in our publications and online as we continue to grow.

We want ambitious people to join our successful sales teams and are looking for IT-literate individuals who are task focused with a good eye for detail. You must be able to communicate well both verbally and in writing.

If you think you have the talent we require, you are ambitious, target driven and want to be part of our growth plans then we want to hear from you immediately

The exceptional benefits include five weeks annual leave, and a contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period). A wide range of voluntary benefits include a cycle scheme,childcare vouchers, contributory private health scheme and Archant Gold (charity matched funding).

To find out more: **www.archant.co.uk/vacancies**
or email: **employment@archant.co.uk**

ARCHANT Inspiring Communities · Kent on Sunday · KENT LIFE

Westlands SCHOOL

Westlands Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent. ME10 1PF

A member of Swale Academies Trust

Deputy Administration Manager

£17,302 -£19,031pa (£15,642 – £ 17,205 pro rata)

School Secretary

£14,526-£16,468 (£13,132 -£ 14,888 pro rata)
Required as soon as possible

37 hours per week, over 5 days

Term time plus 5 Staff Development Days and three weeks in the school holidays

This successful secondary school is seeking two new members to join its effective and dedicated team of administration staff. The successful applicants will be resilient, accurate, and well organised.

They will have had experience of working in a busy school office and be able to respond to the ever changing needs of such an environment. An extensive and working knowledge of Microsoft Office packages and SIMS is essential, along with NVQ Level 2 in Business Administration or equivalent.

Duties will include providing secretarial support to the staff, answering enquiries via the telephone, minute taking and whatever other assistance is needed in order to provide support for staff, pupils, parents and other stakeholders.

The ability to work effectively as part of a team and demonstrate a professional approach at all times is required.

The Deputy will be responsible for the administration and recording of staff absences, staff training and of teaching cover during the day. They will deputise in the Administration Manager's absence.

Swale Academies Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

These posts are subject to an enhanced DBS check.

The Deputy will support this commitment by becoming a DBS liaison officer, for which training will be provided.

Ofsted 2012 - Outstanding

Recruitment packs including a person specification and job description are available from Westlands School or online (www.swaleacademiestrust.org.uk). Please note that we cannot accept CVs without an application form.

Applicants should also include a covering letter detailing how they meet the person specification.

Closing date: 22 October 2014 (noon)

Contact Details Tel: 01795 477475 Fax: 01795 479461

Email swa@westlands.kent.sch.uk

Trust Principal: Mr J Whitcombe MA - Headteacher: Mr S Cox MA

Swale Academies Trust Company No 7344732

Registered Office: Ashdown House, Johnson Road, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 1JS

Science · Maths & Computing

BRADSTOW SCHOOL

Bradstow is a creative and unique residential school for children between the ages of 5 & 19. It is situated in 13 acres of parkland just a few hundred metres from the sandy beaches of Broadstairs. We seek to meet the needs of children and young people with autism and severe learning difficulties with associated behaviours that may be challenging. We have achieved national recognition for our developments in Communication and Behaviour Management.

DUE TO EXPANDING OUR PROVISION WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING RESIDENTIAL CARE VACANCIES:

DEPUTY HOUSE MANAGER

To assist the House Manager in organising and managing a group of staff working in a residential team. To arrange and manage the care of the children and young adults in that team on shift. To manage the administration of the team. To take a lead role in the absence of the House Manager

£23,188 - £25,727 pa - 41 hours per week, (including weekends) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS

As part of the childcare team, these roles involve providing care and support to the children and young people in childcare teams mornings, evenings and weekends. These roles are aimed at candidates with some experience of Care work.

£14,013 - £14,880 plus 10% pa - 41 hours per week, (including weekends) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

As part of the childcare teams, these roles involve providing care and support to the children and young people mornings, evenings and weekends. No experience required, full training will be given.

£11,286 - £11,784 plus 10% pa - 36.5 hours per week, (including weekends - more hours available) - Term time only, plus 2 weeks*

FLEXIBANK TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS

To provide additional support a cover within either the classrooms or residences.

Flexi-bank - £7.26 per hour - When required (up to 41 hours per week including split shifts and weekends)

***For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.**

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, warm, creative and open to learning with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk. Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CVs will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications if 5pm Thursday 25th September 2014.

Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School
Maidstone Road, Rochester, Kent ME1 3EL
Tel: 01634 844008
Email: office@sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk
Website: www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk

An 11-18 Boys' Grammar School of 1200 students including 320 in the co-educational Sixth Form
A member of The Williamson Trust

'OUTSTANDING' Ofsted November 2008 – "a buzz of excitement pervades the school"

Part time Finance Assistant Required

Grade: D2 – Salary: £15,189 - £19,317 per annum (Full time equivalent)

Hours: 30 hours a week term time plus 5 days pro-rata (£10,493 - £13,345)

We require a Finance Assistant to work closely with the Assistant Business Manager at this highly successful grammar school.

You will be a motivated, conscientious and a reliable person able to work effectively as a member of a team as well as individually. Experience in a school finance office essential and using PS Financials accounting software would be an advantage.

OFSTED awarded the school an outstanding grade in every category in our most recent inspection, commenting that "students thrive within its distinctive ethos, enabling them to succeed academically and to develop into confident, well-rounded individuals who are prepared extremely well for their future lives."

The School has recently been designated one of the first 100 National Teaching Schools, has achieved a Medway Council Gold Award in recognition of excellence in its provision of CPD and is a National Support School.

If you are interested in working with bright, talented pupils, then please contact the P A to the Headteacher Mrs Jacqueline Harrison, (harrisonj@sjwms.co.uk) 01634 844008 or visit our website www.sirjosephwilliamson.medway.sch.uk where further details and an application form can be downloaded.

The Williamson Trust currently consists of Sir Joseph Williamson's Mathematical School, the Hundred of Hoo Academy, High Halstow Primary Academy, Elaine Primary Academy and finally St James Primary as a co-sponsored academy all providing exceptional career development opportunities.

We are committed to the safeguarding and wellbeing of children and any offer of employment will be subject to a satisfactory Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Closing date for applications – 29th October 2014

Interviews will take place week beginning – 3rd November 2014

National Teaching School · Medway Inclusive School · The Williamson Trust – aspire achieve excel · National College National Support School · Ofsted Outstanding 2008 2009

PLANNING

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY)
(FOLKESTONE TOWN CENTRE AND THE BAYLE PARKING ZONE) ORDER 2012
(AMENDMENT NO 4)
(ZONE A1 RELOCATION OF DISABLED PERSONS' PARKING PLACES) ORDER 2014

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes the above Order under Sections 1, 2, 32, 44, 45 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order proposes to implement new parking restrictions in the following streets:

ROADS IN FOLKESTONE

Limited waiting 2 hour no return within 2 hours [8am – 6pm Mondays to Saturdays (both days inclusive)] – Sandgate Road; both sides, from a point 94.2 metres south west of its junction with West Terrace to a point 123.3 metres south west of that junction; South east side, from a point 9 metres south west of its junction with Shakespeare Terrace, south west for a distance of 11 metres; North west side, from a point 22.7 metres north east of its junction with Castle Hill Avenue, north east for a distance of 43 metres; **Shakespeare Terrace;** West side, from a point 18 metres south of its junction with Sandgate Road, south for a distance of 20 metres

Zone A1 permit holders only [8am – 6pm] – Shakespeare Terrace, south west side, from a point 16.5 metres south east of the northern carriageway, south east for a distance of 28.5 metres.

Disabled persons' parking places [8am – 6pm 3 hours, no return within 2 hours] – Sandgate Road, both sides from a point 94.2 metres south west of its junction with West Terrace, to a point 107.4 metres south west of that junction; South east side, from a point 15.4 metres south west of its junction with Shakespeare Terrace, south west for a distance of 13.2 metres; North east side, from a point 65.7 metres north east of its junction with Castle Hill Avenue, north east for a distance of 13.2 metres

The Order proposed to revoke the following parking restrictions

Prohibitions of waiting [At any time] – Sandgate Road; South east side from a point 9 metres south west of its junction with Shakespeare Terrace, south west for a distance of 5 metres; Shakespeare Terrace; South east side, from a point 38 metres south east of its junction with Sandgate Road, south for a distance of 2 metres; South west side, from a point 14.5 metres from its junction with the northern carriageway of Pleydell Gardens, south east for a distance of 15 metres.

A copy of the proposed Order, a copy of any Orders which may be affected by it, and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing the Order can be inspected at the Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY, during normal office hours.

If you have any views about the proposed Order you should make them in writing to (Zone A), TRO Consultation, Parking Services, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY. Or email TRO.Consultation@shepway.gov.uk stating "Zone A" in the subject title.

We must receive any representations before 5pm on Monday 10th November 2014 for them to be considered. For legal reasons we cannot accept representations over the phone or in person.

If you have any questions concerning the Order or require further information please contact Shepway District Council (Transportation Department), Council Offices, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, CT20 2QY (01303 853240 during normal office hours).

This notice is published by Shepway District Council on behalf of Kent Highway Services, County Hall, Maidstone, ME14 1XX. Kent Highway Services is part of Kent County Council.

Folkestone Hythe & Romney Marsh

THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING
(DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE)
(ENGLAND) ORDER 2010

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the Council:

Y14/0998/SH - Paddlesworth Resevoir Paddlesworth Court Paddlesworth Kent - Construction of a second ancillary reservoir cell with 4Ml capacity adjacent to the existing Paddlesworth Reservoir, including new underground pipework and valve chamber, an extension to the internal access road, vegetation clearance and planting.

Y14/0660/SH# - West Lawn Lydd Road New Romney Kent TN28 8DH - Erection of a detached dwelling following demolition of the existing outbuildings.

Y14/1145/SH - Well House 41 Radnor Cliff Folkestone Kent CT20 2JL - Works to trees situated within a conservation area comprising the pollarding of three Holm Oaks, three Sycamores and one Monterey Cypress to a height of 1.2 metres.

Y14/1117/SH - 11 Trinity Crescent Folkestone Kent CT20 2ES - Section 73 application to vary condition 3 of planning permission Y11/1090/SH to enable the formation of a roof terrace.

Y14/1080/SH - Westenhanger Castle Stone Street Westenhanger Hythe Kent - Retrospective application for the erection of an extension, together with proposed reinstatement of a porch and erection of a toilet block, all to the west elevation.

Y14/1133/SH - Flat 1 29 Clifton Crescent Folkestone Kent CT20 2EN - Listed Building Consent for the removal of a pillar to basement and installation of RSJ (retrospective).

Y14/1131/SH - 8 Tower Gardens Hythe Kent CT21 6DG - Felling of 3 Lime trees and a Bay tree, all situated within a conservation area.

Y14/1081/SH - Westenhanger Castle Stone Street Westenhanger Hythe Kent - Listed building consent for the erection of an extension, reinstatement of a porch, and erection of a toilet block, all to the west elevation, together with internal alterations.

Any representations should be made in writing to the Head of Planning, Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, Kent, CT20 2QY or emailed to planning@shepway.gov.uk. Comments should be made in writing within 21 days from the date of publication. It should be noted that any representations received will be made available for public inspection.

Some applications can be viewed at other locations in addition to the Civic Centre, Folkestone. The applications are marked as follows:

- The One Stop Shop, Magpies, Church Approach, New Romney

+ - Hythe Town Council Offices, Stade Street, Hythe

Note: This is not a full list of applications received. All planning applications can be viewed and comments made online at http://searchplanapps.shepway.gov.uk/online-applications/.

The applications marked (*) do not accord with the provisions of the development plan in force in the area in which the land to which the application relates is situated.

C Lewis, Head of Planning
Shepway District Council

Deaths

JONES Mary

3/5/1960 - 6/10/2014

Mary took her final journey on Monday 10 October. Her courageous battle ended peacefully at The Pilgrims Hospice in Margate.

A small funeral service with family and close friends took place on Thursday 16 October. Donations to The Pilgrims Hospice can be made in memory of Mary.

Book your family notice for in-print and online from your own home, in your own time.

familynotices24.co.uk

Top 10 Tips
for writing a CV

Before you send off your CV or upload it to a job board you need to be 100% confident you are putting your best foot forward.

1. Check and double check grammar and spelling
2. Exaggeration - Don't be tempted to invent qualifications or embellish the extent of your work experience.
3. Keep it concise and clear - Less is more. Aim for two pages, maximum.
4. No repetition - Always check that you haven't used the same words for describing different skills, work experience, or interests.
5. Tailor Your CV - Don't be tempted to send the same CV to a large number of employers. Tailoring it will give you a better chance of success.
6. Presentation - Use a commonly used font such as Times Roman or Arial
7. Highlight achievements - Remember the purpose/goal of the CV is to get the interview - it needs to stand out and help you sell yourself.
8. Back up with examples - Try to include examples of any skill or achievement. This will give an employer an idea of how you have used your skills.
9. Use your friends and family - Get someone to proof read your CV.
10. Keep it fresh - Update your CV whenever you've gained more experience.

jobs24.co.uk
IN-PAPER • ONLINE • ON MOBILE

Visit us at www.jobs24.co.uk

PLANNING

IFCA

MARINE AND COASTAL ACCESS ACT 2009
COCKLE FISHERY FLEXIBLE PERMIT BYELAW

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN: The Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority intends to apply to the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for confirmation of a Cockle Fishery Flexible Permit Byelaw to manage cockle stocks outside the area of the Thames Estuary Cockle Fishery Order 1994.

During the period of 28 days from the date of the publication of this Notice a copy of the Byelaw and Impact Assessment will be deposited at the offices of the applicant, at the address given below and at www.kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk.

Objections or representations concerning this notification should be made within 28 days of the date of this notice to both addresses given below:

Marine Conservation and Enforcement Team, Marine Management Organisation, Lancaster House, Hampshire Court, Newcastle upon Tyne NE4 7YH or ifcabyelaws@marinemanagement.org.uk

Kent and Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority Paragon House, Albert Street, Ramsgate, Kent CT11 9HD or info@kentandessex-ifca.gov.uk

Fill your job vacancies fast

To advertise in this section call:

0845 671 4460 and 020 8477 3720

email **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk**

jobs24.co.uk IN-PAPER • ONLINE • ON MOBILE

It's jobs for Kent

To advertise in this section

0845 671 4460 and 020 8477 3720

email **appointments@kosmedia.co.uk**

NEED A LOCAL FLORIST?

Whatever you are looking for localsearch24.co.uk will help you find it

localsearch24.co.uk
your trusted local directory

Victory this weekend at Brands Hatch and one of our favourite sporting heroes will be in the record books but

Shakey focused on superbike showdown and place in history

THIS weekend our very own Shane 'Shakey' Byrne aims to make motorsport history when he bids to become the first rider to take four British Superbike Championship titles.

The Sittingbourne rider is on his home turf of Brands Hatch, where 50,000 fans are expected to assemble for the crowning of this year's king of the circuit. The majority will be hoping that coronation to be of Byrne, but there is one major obstacle: Japanese rider Ryuichi Kiyonari.

In a delicious twist of fate, Kinoyari is also a three-time BSB winner. Hence, in something that might have come straight out of the world of boxing, the event has been termed the War For Four.

Byrne holds a slender 12-point lead over 'Kiyo' and the destination of this year's title will be decided over three races over both days of the weekend.

It's an irony that, with such a momentous achievement within his grasp, Byrne has not enjoyed one of his smoother seasons.

"It's been tough at times," he said.

"I wouldn't put it down as one of my favourite seasons. There was a lean spell in the middle when I just didn't seem able to win a race. But then I won the second race at Assen and it was a real boost when I really needed it."

Sometimes in Kent we have to struggle to claim sportsmen as our own, but there's no such problem with Byrne.

"I grew up in Sittingbourne, where my mum still lives, and have a house on Sheppey. We've also got a place in Spain and we try to nip off there when we can.

"We used to spend three or four months a year out there, but now my son Zack is back at school and my daughter Lily is at nursery our former lifestyle has gone a bit."

Spain is doubtless missed, but Byrne is still enjoying life in his home county.

"I love Brands. It's my home track and I spend quite a lot of time there doing TV and things like meeting motorsport fans. One day it would be great to get a job there."

The culmination of the season at Brands entails the Showdown, a complex system in which the top six riders throughout the year are elevated to Title Fighter status, meaning their scores are reset to 500, to which are added the Podium Points that have been accrued through the season (five for a win, three for a second place and one from third).

Got it?

"I spoke to them [the competition organisers] about modifying the Showdown to make it more interesting," said Byrne.

"And I think they listened to me. I think it's good that they were prepared to modify the event."

Does the system not negate all the good work that has been done by the championship leaders during the year, though?

"I'm really, really glad you said that," said Byrne. "Yes, if you're way out in front it can be difficult to swallow when you've probably done enough to take the title in a conventional championship.

"But the way the rules are in Superbikes means we keep the final rounds interesting. The Showdown is not a game of chess. It's ultimately where the championship is decided.

"In 2008 I'd won it with four rounds to go and nobody turned up for the last rounds. It was the same in 2009, when Leon Camier [also a Kent rider] was way out in front.

> **"Anyone on his day can win a race. People appreciate Superbikes and it's nice for riders to get recognition for the job they do rather than the bikes"**
>
> **Shane Byrne,** on his passion for the sport

"So I totally get what they're doing with the Showdown. This is what we've primed for all season."

The extraordinary success he has enjoyed in the format doubtless helps, but British Superbikes could have no greater advocate than Byrne.

"It's the best spectacle of bike-racing in the world," he said.

"MotoGP is undoubtedly the pinnacle and everyone aspires to that because it's a little bit random.

"But here anyone on his day can win a race and people love it – my Twitter account is off the wall. People appreciate Superbikes and it's nice for riders to get recognition for the job they do rather than the bikes.

"In MotoGP the difference in machinery is so great that a bike can work on one track and not on others.

"In Superbikes, though, Honda, Kawasaki, Suzuki, Yamaha and BMW can all win in any race.

"MotoGP doesn't interest me. I want to get a bike that will allow me to do the job I need to do.

"I enjoy winning at Superbikes, where it's all about hard work, determination and pain.

"As for MotoGP, why should I race people I've beaten but they've now got a better bike than me?"

He's a jolly fellow, Byrne, and he's invariably good with the Press.

You suspect his cheery demeanour is a combination of natural affability and a love of what he's doing.

"I'm a lad from a council estate in Sittingbourne, so I appreciate everything I've got," he said. "From the time I bought my first bike and when I took myself to my first race, I've done this myself and I love every minute of it."

Hopefully he will be loving it more than ever at the end of today as he takes the War For Four.

■ **Race-day admission at Brands Hatch today, when two of the three races are being held, is £32.**

KEA

a Japanese rival could spoil the home party, writes **David Mairs**

Pictures: ANDY KELLY

HERE'S HOPING: Sittingbourne rider Shane 'Shakey' Byrne will hope to be crowned champion for a fourth time

KEA

Sport **Shorts**

» Email **sports@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **Dave Mairs** on **01233 653479**

Yarnold pre-selected for GB skeleton squad

GONG CRAZY: Lizzy Yarnold receives the county council's Invicta Award

WEST Kingsdown's Olympic gold-medal-winner Lizzy Yarnold has been pre-selected for Great Britain's skeleton World Cup squad.

Yarnold, who won gold at Sochi and was overall World Cup champion for 2013-14, will be travelling to Lillehammer in Norway for a training camp.

The fact she has been pre-selected means Yarnold will not be required to take part in GB's World Cup selection races taking place in Winterberg, Germany, next month.

Yarnold held the World Cup Leader yellow vest for the whole of last season after finishing on the podium in seven out of eight World Cup races, including four gold medals.

Her season culminated with the gold medal at Sochi, where the 25-year old secured Great Britain's fourth consecutive Olympic medal in the skeleton since the sport was reintroduced to the Olympic programme in Salt Lake City in 2002.

Following her pre-selection, Yarnold said: "The Olympics was one of the best moments of my life and I've been able to do some fabulous things since then, but now I'm a focused athlete again and I need to concentrate on having a successful World Cup season."

We let down the fans, says Gills boss Taylor after loss

GILLINGHAM manager Peter Taylor has said his side let down the fans at Priestfield in their 3-0 defeat to Scunthorpe United on Saturday last week.

Captain Doug Loft's dismissal in the 34th minute played a big part in how the match developed as the visitors inflicted Gills' first home league defeat of the season.

"A very disappointing day, not just the result but, to me, apart from the first minute, there wasn't enough about us," Taylor told the club website in the aftermath of the game.

"I can only hold my hands up to say that it's not good enough and we've let a lot of people down.

"I know what they [the players] are capable of doing and I would hope they are disappointed with the standard. They know they are better than that.

"I just hope they are feeling the same way as me at the minute.

"We have let our supporters down. There were 7,000 people here, which is a fantastic attendance, and those are the days where are you are desperate to show them what you are capable of doing and unfortunately we have shown them a negative side.

"I don't think we are that far away from being a decent team, but we didn't show it today."

Keep up-to-date with all Kent's sports news via social media on:
Twitter @KentSport Facebook www.facebook.com/kentsport.3

13 Plate
Vauxhall Corsa 1.4 SE 5dr

Representative Example

60 Monthly Payments	Deposit	Cash Price
£139	£139	£8,479
Amount of Credit	**Total Amount Payable**	**Representative**
£8,340	£8,479	0% APR

CORSA SPECTACULAR

SAVE OVER **£7,600**
against cost when new; £16,115

Barnes Auto Store
Part of FGBarnesGroup
Delivering excellence since 1899

Sutton Road, Parkwood, Maidstone
Kent ME15 9YF
Telephone: 01622 755531
www.barnesautostore.co.uk

EASY TO FIND WITH SATELLITE NAVIGATION
JUST ENTER THE POSTCODE
ME15 9YF
N 51 14 E 00 33

Cars shown for illustration purposes only. Finance subject to status. Terms and conditions apply. Please ask for further details.

50% Off Voucher

That's right. Half Price Servicing on your Vauxhall
Exclusively at FG Barnes Motoring Centre
Lifetime Warranty re-activation Included

Book yours today. Offer ends 31st October 2014.

FG Barnes Motoring Centre
Part of FGBarnesGroup
Delivering excellence since 1899

Sutton Road, Parkwood, Maidstone
Kent ME15 9YF
Telephone: 01622 755531
www.fgbarnes.co.uk

EASY TO FIND WITH SATELLITE NAVIGATION
JUST ENTER THE POSTCODE
ME15 9YF
N 51 14 E 00 33

VAUXHALL
Authorised Repairer